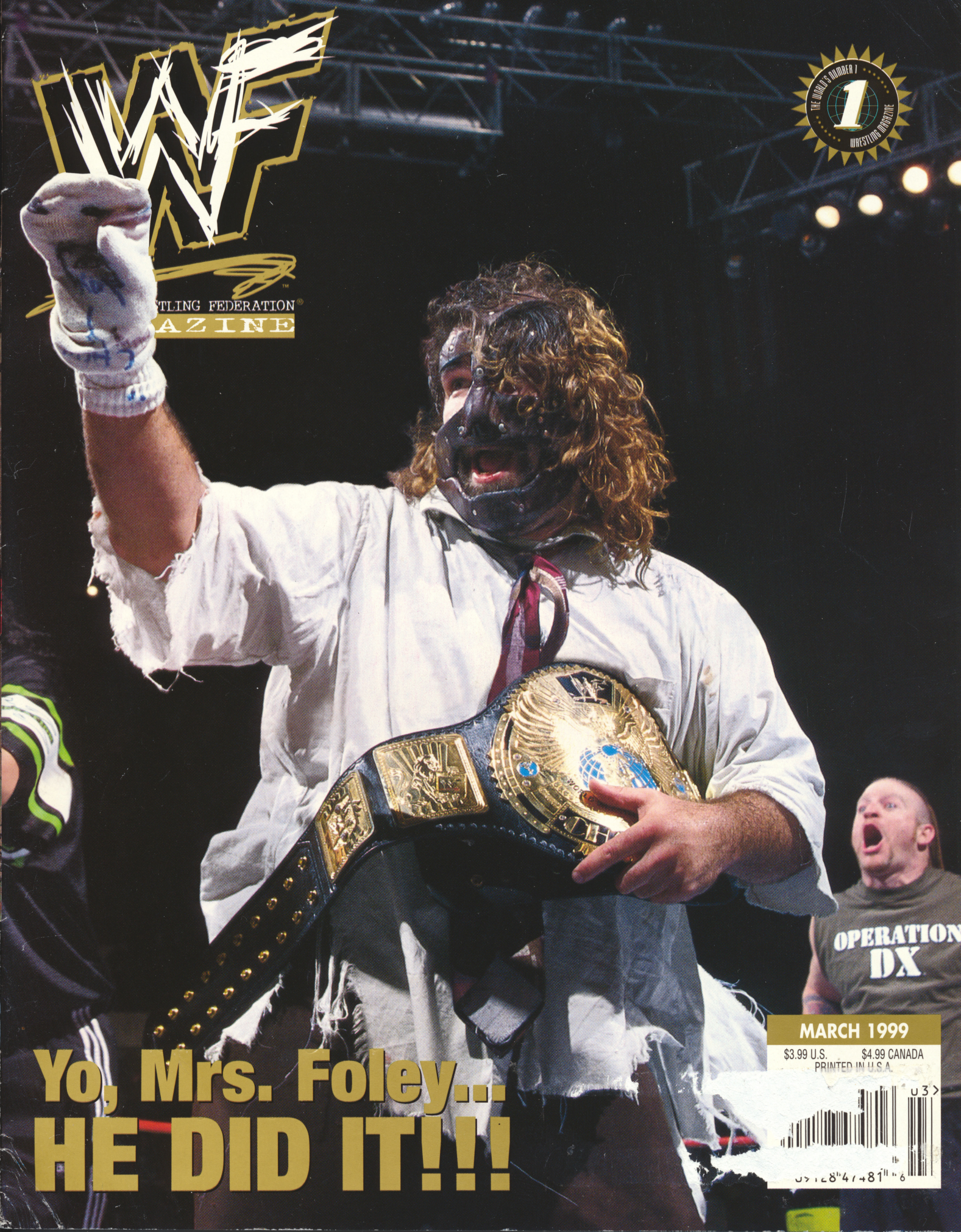
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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION® MAGAZINE

Volume 18 No. 3

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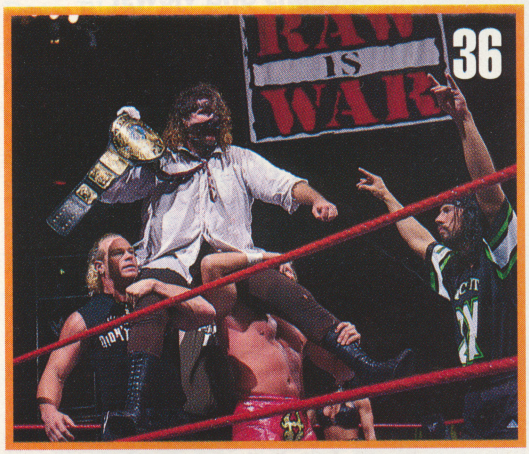

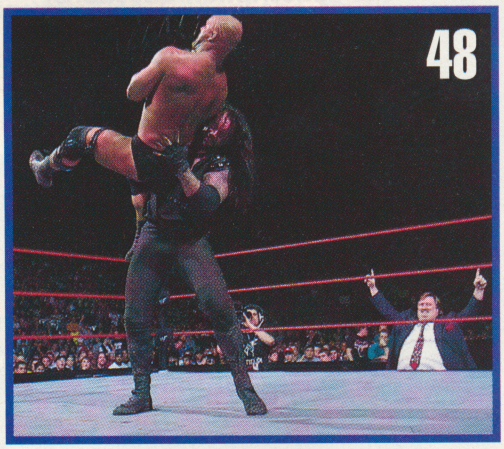

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Cover Photo: Rich Freeda

TALKIN' THE TALK

There is no time limit!!

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Stamford, CT 06905

(Kevin Kelly answers the masses!)

E-mail

Dear Editor,

I just finished reading the "Eye to Eyebrow" article about The Rock and Stone Cold in the January issue of World Wrestling Federation Magazine. In one paragraph it said, "The Rock is a product of today's culture. He is an anti-hero. In another era, The Rock would be Public Enemy Number One, instead of the toast of the town." Sounds an awful lot like Stone Cold to me! After reading the article, I realized how much they had in common. My question is, Do you ever think they could form a team to fight Vince McMahon?

Carmine Castelli
SCSA316601@AOL.COM

Dear Carmine,

Without The Rock's choice of the easy way out, I guarantee you that we would be talking about Austin and the Rock as tag team title threats instead of threats to each other's well-being. Even though the "easy way" is with Team Corporate, the reality of having to face the Rattlesnake makes the Corporate Champion's choice still a little surprising.

Letter

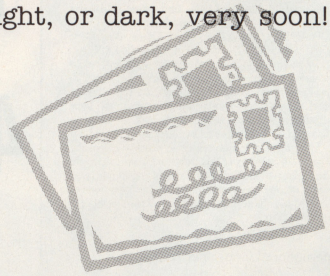
Dear Editor,

One word... Gangrel! Extremely talented and very fierce. He could single-handedly destroy anyone in his path. However, what I really worry about is Edge and Christian. I'll have to admit that the Brood at full strength is awesome, but how can Gangrel trust the two brothers? After all the hatred Gangrel and Edge once showed towards each other, isn't it possible they could turn on him? Is there anything the fans should know about this mysterious relationship?

Chris Lamanna
Toronto, Canada

Dear Chris,

Believe me, we would love to know more about the Brood. You raise a good point about trust—not only should we not be fooled by appearances, but also we should not necessarily believe what people tell us regarding familial bonds. Perhaps whoever the Brood call "Father" will come to light, or dark, very soon!



*Gangrel created by White Wolf, Inc.

E-mail

Dear Editor,

I just read the January issue of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine, and I have a question about the "Predictions" article. Under Ken Shamrock, you talked about a group known as the Shooters. What a great idea this would be! If the possibility were there to form such a tandem with Dan Severn and Steve Blackman, why wouldn't Shamrock leave Team Corporate right now?

Mike Chase

Brood99@goplay.com

Dear Mike,

The fact is that Ken Shamrock will prosper better with Team Corporate than with his own group of hybrid fighters. The problem for guys like Severn, Blackman and even Bart Gunn is that no one wants to face them. It was tough for Shamrock to find opponents before his union with Mr. McMahon and now those days are over. The World's Most Dangerous Man is in the best place he could possibly be.

Letter

Dear Editor,

During the "Rock Bottom" Pay-Per-View this past December, I had all my friends over to watch, but everyone was disgusted when the Blue Blazer kept Debra from fulfilling her obligation to strip! It was part of the losing agreement, wasn't it? I would like to request that Debra be kept to this contractual obligation one way or another. If she isn't, I demand to know why!

"Jaime"

Washington, DC

Dear "Jaime",

Truth, justice and being a party pooper are apparently the goals of the Blue Blazer. I am just as upset as you about what we didn't get to see at Rock Bottom. (See the complete results beginning on page 48 of this issue.) But with the way Debra got into the act, I bet we get to see more of the "exhibitionist" side of this lovely lady very soon! While they say there is a little bit of the Blue Blazer in all of us, I can assure you the part of the Blazer that covered up Debra certainly isn't in me!

E-mail

Dear Editor,

While I enjoyed most of the "Goldust Show" article in the January issue of the World Wrestling Federation Magazine, I was appalled that you would even suggest that Dakota is just a "child actor"! I think it's quite obvious from her appearances on RAW over a year ago that she is the loving daughter of Terri and Dustin. Who would do something so cruel to a child? How could you even write that?

Blair Supple

Supl1289@AOL.COM

Dear Blair,

Have you seen a birth certificate? Were you there for her birth? While I know the answers to the questions I have asked, I don't mean to be sarcastic. All the writer, Bill Banks, and I suggest is that you believe nothing you see when it comes to Goldust. It is all a facade, a backdrop. We are all part of a cast of thousands in the story of the Bizarre One. When the truth is revealed, you will then get your answer about who was right or wrong.

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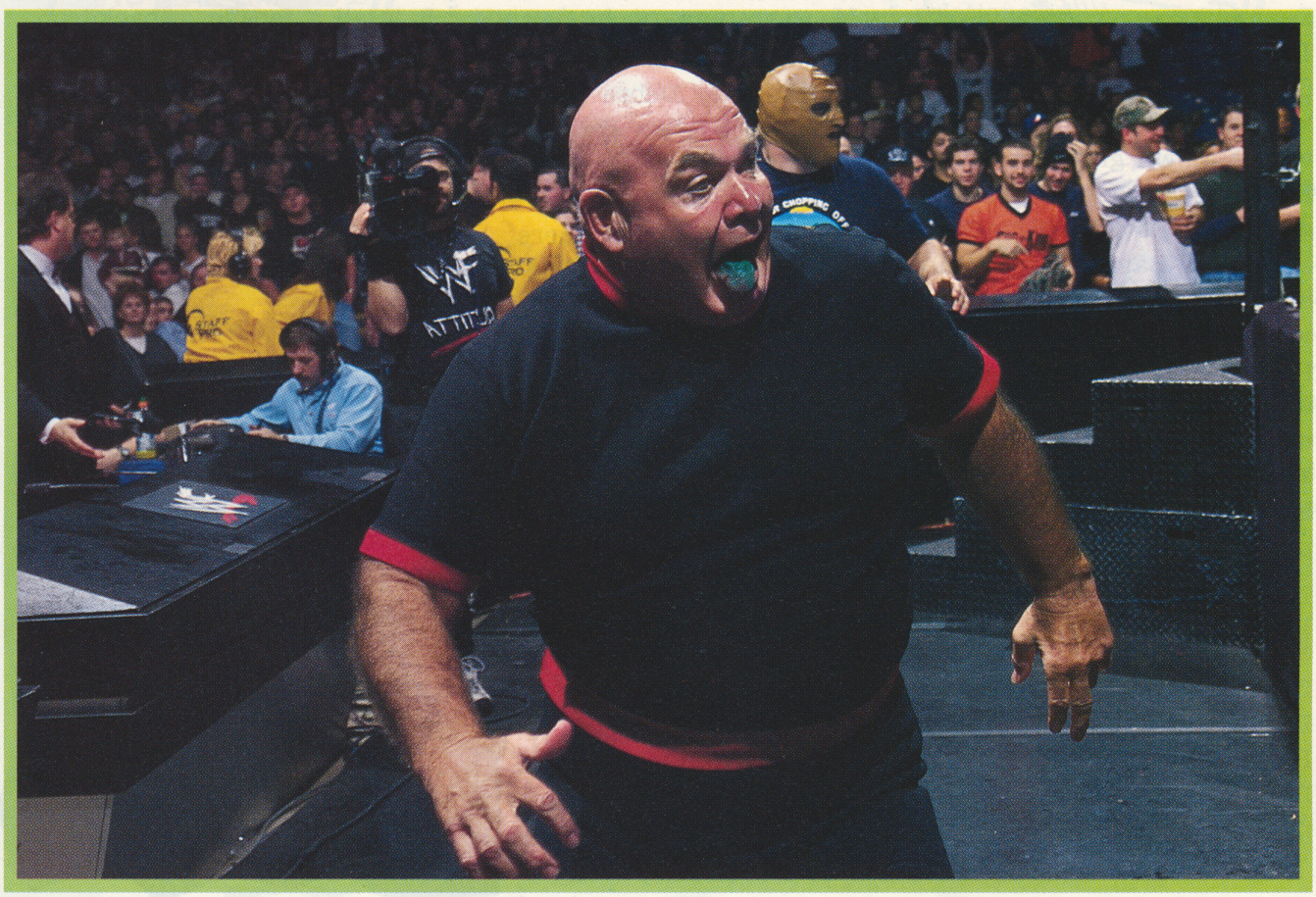
TALES FROM THE TURNBUCKLE

THE ORIGINAL ODDITY RETURNS!

Long before the Oddities debuted in the World Wrestling Federation, another superstar was considered the top "freak" in the World Wrestling Federation. In the 1970s and 80s, George "The Animal" Steele gained notoriety for his thick hair, green tongue and tendency to eat turnbuckles! Children flocked to this Hall of Famer, while opponents ran in terror from his flailing attack. His stuffed animal, "Mine", even became a cult phenomenon among wrestling fans.

In the 1990s, George migrated from the ring to "behind the scenes," becoming a top Federation official. He never completely retired and from time to time would still compete—as in December 1997 when he and Taka Michinoku battled Jerry "The King" Lawler and "Too Sexy" Brian Christopher on *RAW*. Despite the surprise appearance, Steele and Taka lost the bout by disqualification, due to the use of a foreign object that has become a trademark of the Animal's career—which he claims is just an "optical illusion."

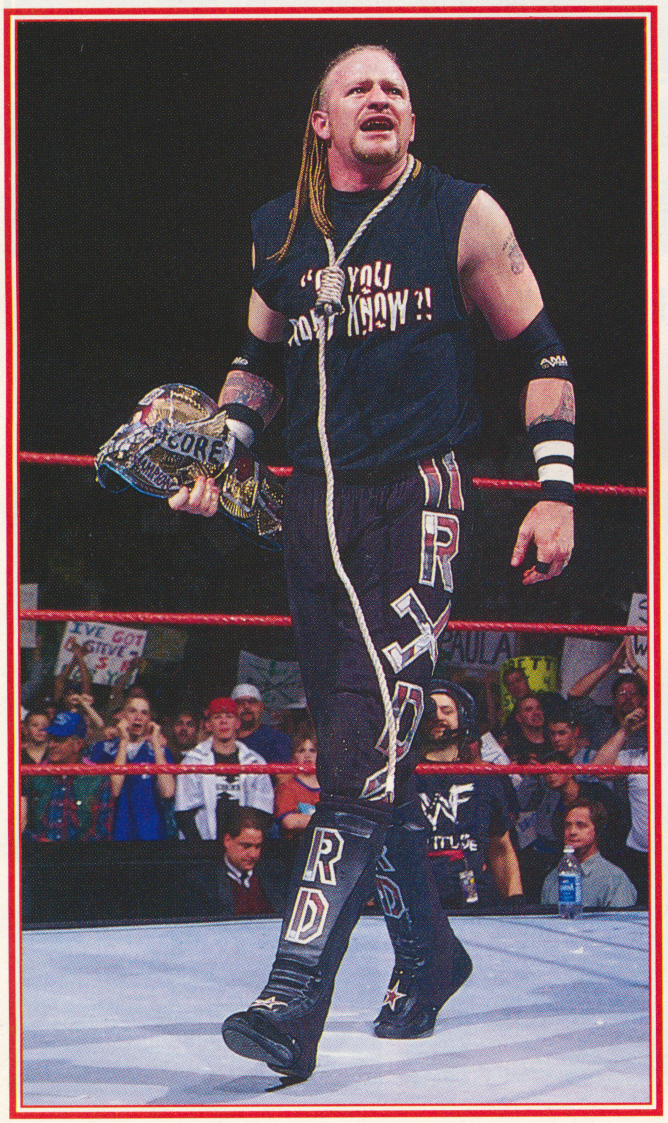
It was no mirage when the legendary Hall of Famer made his return to the World Wrestling Federation this past December as a mentor of the Oddities! During *Sunday Night HEAT*, Kurrgan, Silva and Golga wheeled out a huge gift box as a "Peace Offering" to the Headbangers. When its wild contents were revealed, the Animal brutalized Mosh and Thrasher and chased them out of the arena! Now, many are saying the "original oddity" is tailor-made to lead Kurrgan, Silva and Golga into the next millennium! Perhaps all the Oddities needed was another freak to show them the way.



Championship Titles Or Hot Potatoes?!

1998 will go down as a very busy year for titles in the World Wrestling Federation. With six championships up for grabs, the competition and World Wrestling Federation "Attitude" attained an all-time high each and every week. The action peaked prior to the New Year when nearly every Federation Title changed hands within a three-week span!

At December's "Rock Bottom" Pay-Per-View Mankind nearly claimed the grandest prize in the sport with a win over The Rock. Thanks to some doctoring of the rules by Mr. McMahon, however, The Rock barely escaped Vancouver, British Columbia, with the gold. The following night on *RAW*, new Commissioner Shawn Michaels ordered the New Age Outlaws to give Ken Shamrock and the Big Boss Man a Tag Team Title rematch over the previous night. During the bout, HBK knocked Billy Gunn out cold with the Boss Man's nightstick, allowing the "World's Most Dangerous Man" to apply the Ankle Lock Submission on the unconscious DX member for the win and the gold.



The following week on *RAW*, Mr. McMahon entrusted his son Shane with the responsibility of running the company for one night. Confronted with an upset DX at the top of the show, the heir apparent gave Michaels the pleasure of stipulating matches featuring Road Dog against the Boss Man, Billy Gunn against Shamrock and Hunter and X-Pac facing The Rock and Test. In a shocking final decree, Shane allowed his temper to get the better of him when he challenged Mankind to a fight!

Later on in the broadcast, the audience erupted when it appeared Billy had snared the Intercontinental Championship—until Michaels came down and pointed out that he had never used the words "Title Match." Michaels said the only person who had claimed the match was for the gold was the ring announcer, and his opinion "didn't mean squat." Therefore, Gunn won the match but Shamrock retained the title!

Road Dog put all doubt aside prior to his contest with the Boss Man by convincing the Cobb County law man to put the Hardcore Title up for grabs. In a falls count anywhere, no holds barred match the superstars used the steel steps, a five-gallon bucket, a steel tray, a broom, an electric fan, a noose and the belt to assault each other! As they battled out in the crowd, Mankind appeared and threw a net over the head of the champion and then clobbered him with a nightstick, allowing Road Dog to score the victory and the Hardcore Championship!

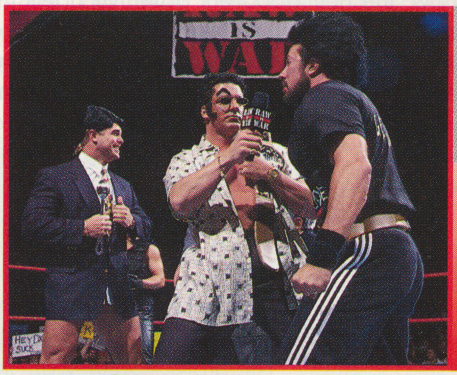
Team Corporate's night was made even more pressing when the Boiler Room Dweller nearly annihilated the second-in-command in their fight. If not for the rest of Team Corporate coming to Shane's rescue, his future as the leader of the Federation may have been in serious jeopardy! Their losses were avenged by the end of the broadcast when in a stunning coup for the McMahons, Kane aligned himself with Team Corporate. This historic *RAW* was just an example of the epic proportions reached in 1998, and a sure sign of things to come in 1999!

Mick Foley: Man-Kind Of The Year!

Each year since 1927, *TIME Magazine*, one of the most recognized publications in the world, has selected a "Man of the Year"—the man, woman or movement which for better or worse shaped the events of the preceding 12 months. Past winners of this distinguished award include Charles Lindbergh, Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Mikhail Gorbachev, Pope John Paul II and Newt Gingrich.

In recent years, *TIME* has provided readers a chance to vote for their candidates via online voting through their Internet site. Which celebrity grabbed the headlines this year? None other than Mick Foley, who blew away the competition in December—claiming the top spot! As of press time, Foley led the field with over 30 percent of the voting! What makes this achievement even more amazing is that the Boiler Room Dweller garnered his following through write-in votes. Not even Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky, Ken Starr, Mark McGwire, Janet Reno or Saddam Hussein had a fraction of the numbers Foley amassed!

When the news broke on a December *RAW* that the superstar was tops in the online voting, World Wrestling Federation fans flooded the *TIME* web site. As a result, *TIME* was forced to temporarily shut down their site to handle the tremendous support for Foley! Even though *TIME Magazine* may not recognize the voting, we here at the World Wrestling Federation congratulate Mick for his amazing accomplishment! No matter who *TIME* names, the people know who the REAL Man-kind of 1998 is!



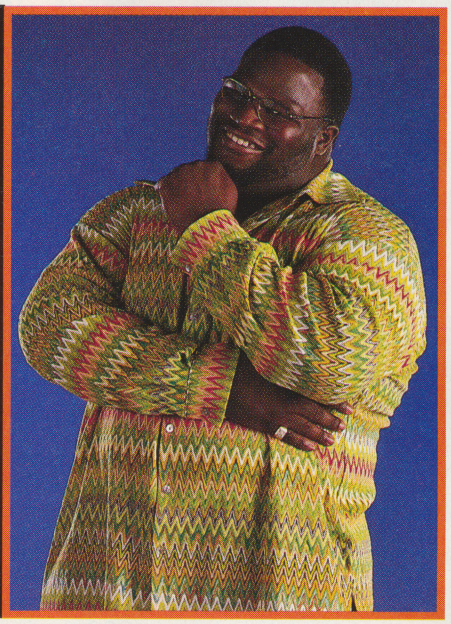
"Quote of the month"

"The Crock thinks Kenny should switch to decaf!"

—Triple H as "The Crock," during DX's impersonation of Team Corporate on RAW

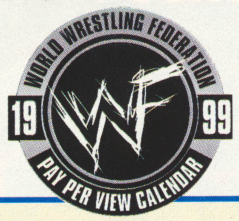
MARK HENRY'S TOP FIVE HALL OF FAME PICKUP LINES:

1. Baby, I'm no Fred Flintstone, but I can make your Bedrock!
2. My name isn't Elmo, but you can tickle me anytime!
3. Your legs must be tired because you've been running through my mind all day!
4. If I could rearrange the alphabet, I'd put U and I together.
5. My nickname is Milk...'cuz I do a body good!



You Don't Say

Could the "Big Valbowski" one day hold political office? According to an interview with the adult film star in the March issue of RAW Magazine, Val Venis has a possible future in politics!



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February

17—Knoxville, TN

18—Lexington, KY

19—St. Louis, MO

20—New Haven, CT

21—Springfield, MA

26—Washington DC

27—Boston, MA

28—Dayton, OH (*HEAT*)

March

1—Cleveland, OH (*RAW*)

2—Pittsburgh, PA (*RAW*)

6—Rosemont, IL

7—Milwaukee, WI

12—Anaheim, CA

13—Las Vegas, NV

14—Bakersfield, CA (*HEAT*)

15—San Jose, CA (*RAW*)

Inside The Ladies' Locker Room!

Besides the World Wrestling Federation ring, some of the most surprising and aggressive actions of the superstars take place in the locker room. From secret alliances to sneak attacks, fans have been privy to the "behind-the-scenes" world of sports-entertainment on numerous occasions. Despite the seemingly limitless boundaries available to viewers, only one place has been considered "off limits" in Federation history—UNTIL NOW!

In the March issue of *RAW Magazine*, which hits newsstands everywhere on February 24, cameras capture what goes on inside the ladies' locker room for the first time ever! What if those walls could talk? What stories would they tell about a world millions have never seen? *RAW Magazine* reveals what it's like to be on the inside of the ladies' locker room and tackles some of the most controversial gender issues in the sport!

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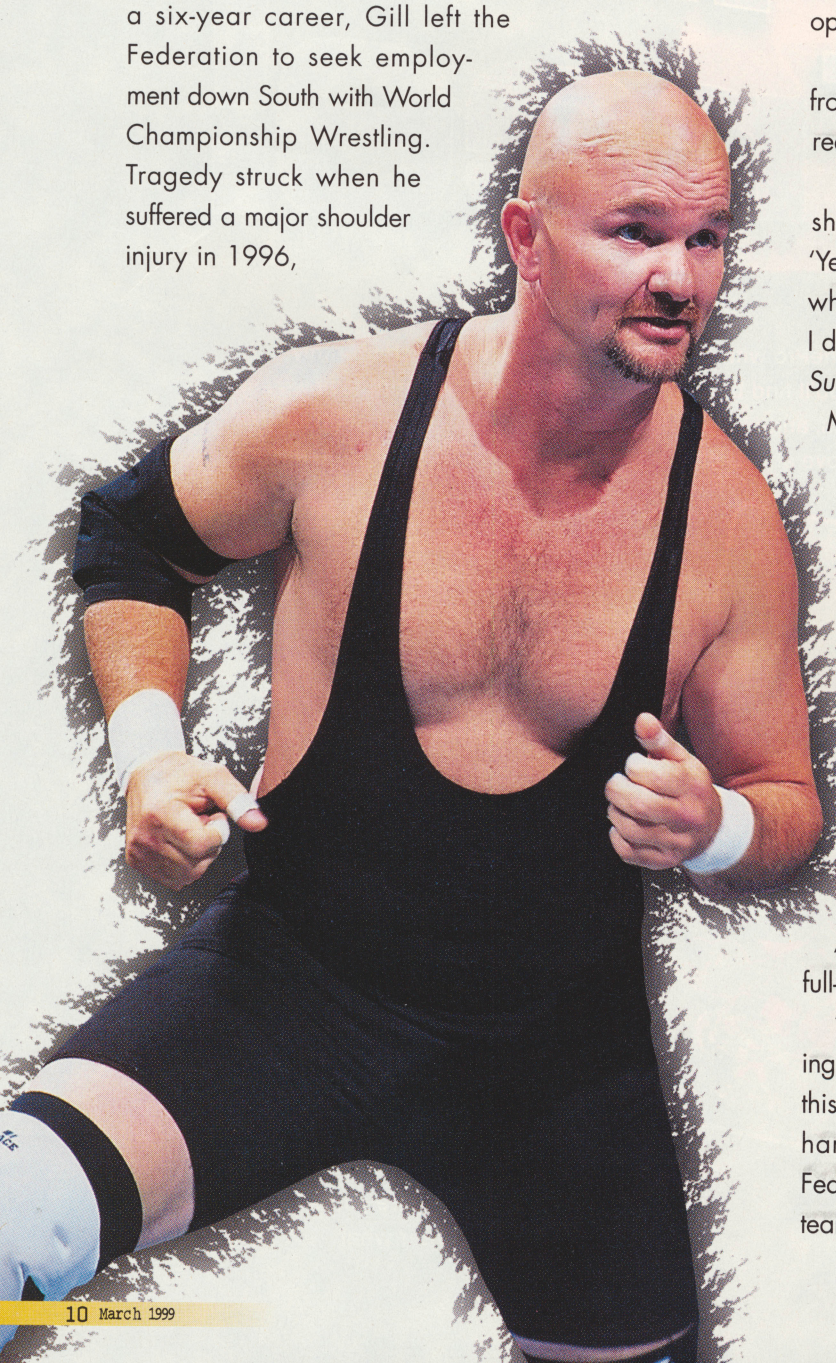
DUANE GILL

In the early 1990s, Duane Gill was what insiders call a "preliminary wrestler", or hired competition looking to get noticed. Amid an army of athletes trying to "make it" in the sport, this Baltimore, Maryland native lost better than anyone in the game. Just like a football team, the World Wrestling Federation athletes needed a tackling dummy to practice with!

After finding his back to the mat once too often over a six-year career, Gill left the Federation to seek employment down South with World Championship Wrestling. Tragedy struck when he suffered a major shoulder injury in 1996, forcing him out of the sport. During his recuperation, he earned a living as a "maintenance technician" for the Board of Education. He also became an assistant coach with the nearby Pasadena (Maryland) Chargers, the local 9-year-old junior football team that in 1997 went 12-0 and won the county championship, and is 11-0 as of this printing and headed for another championship! He was fully prepared for life outside the squared circle... until opportunity came knocking at his door.



This past November, Gill received a telephone call from one of Mr. McMahon's front office representatives requesting his services for some upcoming events.

"They told me they wanted to use me at some of the shows," Gill said in a phone interview. "And I said, 'Yes, sir, that sounds great.'" Then he asked me if I knew what November 15 [1998] was. And I said, 'No, sir, I don't have a calendar handy.' When I learned it was the *Survivor Series* ["Deadly Game"] and I would be facing Mankind on behalf of Mr. McMahon, I said, 'Wrestling on a Pay-Per-View?! OH, MY GOD!'"

After two years out of the sport, Duane made his return to the World Wrestling Federation in the first round of the "Deadly Game" tournament—even getting his own video and pyrotechnics. Despite the excitement of the moment, Mankind quickly downed him.

Determined not to let the loss destroy his comeback, Gill appeared one week later on *RAW*, facing Christian in a light heavyweight title bout. While getting his brains kicked in, Al Snow and the J.O.B. Squad came to his rescue—helping him score the win and the gold! After the victory, the new phenomenon was made a full-fledged member of the J.O.B. Squad!

"Everything is happening so quick," Gill said. "Working for the Board of Education, I would have never expected this to happen! It's like a dream come true. I'm having a hard time believing it myself. And the next time the Federation comes near Pasadena, Maryland, my football team will be in the crowd cheering the loudest!"

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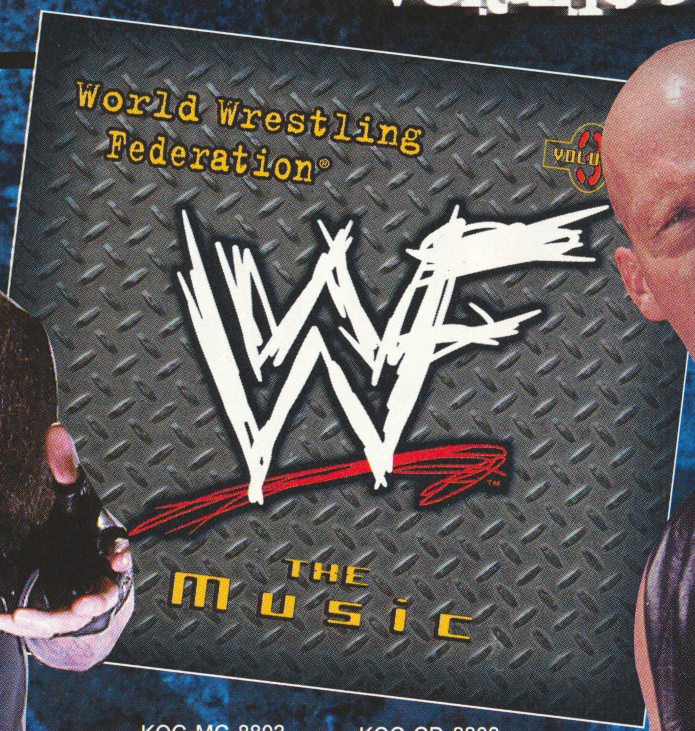

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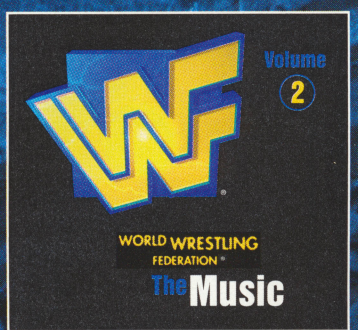

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KOCH INTERNATIONAL

THE SECURITY OF THE HAT

"Put your hat on before you leave the house! I don't care how goofy it looks—you'll catch cold without it!!!"

C'mon—who didn't live through that as a kid? It was a part of life. That hat on your head gave your mother a sense of security. I mean, in the dead of winter she wouldn't care whether you rolled in the snow BUCK naked—as long as you kept that ridiculous hat on your head. It was her security blanket. If you pulled that wool over your ears you would never—AND I DO MEAN NEVER—catch a cold. That hat protected you from all the bad things in life. With it—a sense of warmth, security, stability. Without it—the world would just come crumblin' down!

Lookin' back—how ridiculous was that theory? Or was it that ridiculous, after all? As you got older you didn't need the damn hat. You'd ditch it—buried the damn thing at the bottom of the closet. What the hell does your mother know anyway? And... you'd go out... and you'd catch a GD COLD!!!

You know what? Next time you wore the damn hat.

I don't know... maybe he wore the hat because his Mama in Oklahoma told him to. On the other hand... maybe it was one of those ridiculous rasslin' gimmicks. You know—"He's from Oklahoma—put a damn cowboy hat on him. That'll fit his character!" No doubt it was the latter—but regardless his Mama would have been proud anyway.

Jim Ross always made it a point to mention his "Mama back home in Oklahoma" on *Raw Is War*. He always talked about how he "made her proud." And he did. As her only child, JR was perhaps the only thing his Mama had. While battlin' a serious illness for the past few years, seeing her son every Monday night gave her that feeling of security. The same feeling that JR gave us all every Monday night... even though I for one never realized it.

In early December, while he was in England calling "Capital Carnage", JR was informed that his Mama had lost the fight. Overcome by her illness... she had passed away. The news devastated JR as it would any son. Unfortunately, it devastated him to the point that the Bell's Palsy he had suffered from a few years ago once again reared its ugly head. The right side of JR's face seemed to have fallen in harmony with his heart. In a matter of 24 hours, he had lost his Mama... and also perhaps his livelihood.

In this business you meet a lot of people—some you'll never forget, others... you can't wait to. I'll make no bonz about it—over the years I've had my differences with JR. Let's face it, we come from two different worlds, two different generations. Our morals are different, our values are different and our ideas are VERY different. Hell, I never even HEARD of Danny Hodge until I met JR, let alone knew that the man was the closest livin' thing to Jesus Christ. I'll never forget the time we were in Oklahoma, and Jim Ross and Gerald Brisco were biddin' on a TELEPHONE BOOK because Danny Hodge was on the cover. I thought that these two hornyackers were NUTZ. When I was finally introduced to Hodge by Brisco, I swear I was waiting for a religious experience to happen or something. No, it never did. But, hell, I don't think JR would get too excited if he was introduced to Gene Simmons of KISS either. Oh, did I tell you that Gene Simmons WALKS ON !@#$ WATER? In my book... of course. That's what I mean about the differences. The man—a grown man—wears a cowboy hat, for God's sake!!!

Now—let me tell you about that hat.

On the advice of his doctors, JR took some time off. And it wasn't as though it wasn't a long time coming. There are many who say that Jim Ross may be the hardest working man in the sports-entertainment business next to Vince and Shane McMahon. I for one would have to agree. In JR's absence, Michael Cole was named as the stick man for *Raw*... and he went out without his hat on. Now, GET THIS—Michael Cole has come a long way in this business. He has shattered the rule of commentators, which used to read that you had to have been in the rasslin' business FOREVER before anybody would even think of handin' you a microphone. Before coming here Michael was a news man and, in my opinion, he has made an incredible transformation. Need I remind you of Todd "Me, Myself & I" Pettengill who we had to suffer with for so many years because he OBVIOUSLY knew somebody? Well, Michael is a far cry from that Eddie Munster wannabe, no-ratings DJ!!! But, kidz, you can't put a rookie in center field and expect him to replace Ken Griffey, Jr.... It may be wishful thinkin', but it just ain't gonna happen!!! There's gotta be a learnin' curve—a learnin' curve that you just can't afford in a ratings war.

As JR's replacement, Michael Cole did a tremendous job—he is the future of this company—but it just wasn't the same. It all goes back to the security of the hat. When we're told to put the hat on, we fight it—we make excuses not to. "It looks ridiculous, and what the hell is a government mule anyway?" Hell, every Tuesday morning I was the best armchair commentator in the business. That's part of my job. I could poke holes in the team of Madden & Summerall, if you'd let me. Hell, I could do a better job than them! And JR? All this talk about what college he played football for—WHO CARES?!!! "A Hakuna-Matata off the top rope!!!" Who cares?!!! Don't need the hat. Don't want the hat. YOU wear the hat.

Then—all of a sudden—your mother takes the hat away.

"You can't have this anymore."

"Well... wait a minute. What do you mean I can't have it anymore? But... I'll catch cold. I'll get sick and die. It wasn't that bad... REALLY. As a matter of fact—I was starting to like it. No... I mean REALLY like it. It felt warm. It made me SECURE. It just isn't—and won't be—the same without it. What I'm sayin' is—PLEAZE GIVE ME THE DAMN HAT BACK!!! If I had to do this job myself—I'D SUCK!!! I'm BEGGIN' ya—GIVE ME BACK THE GD HAT!!!

JR—unfortunately it's sad, but it's true. You don't realize what you have—until you don't have it anymore. On Tuesday mornings I'll find something else to do—just come back and say SLOBBERKNOCKER just once!!! C'mon—I'll do whatever it takes!!!

Hey, I know... how about one of those Danny Hodge phone books?!!

We miss you—YA OL' GRUMP!!!

Later.

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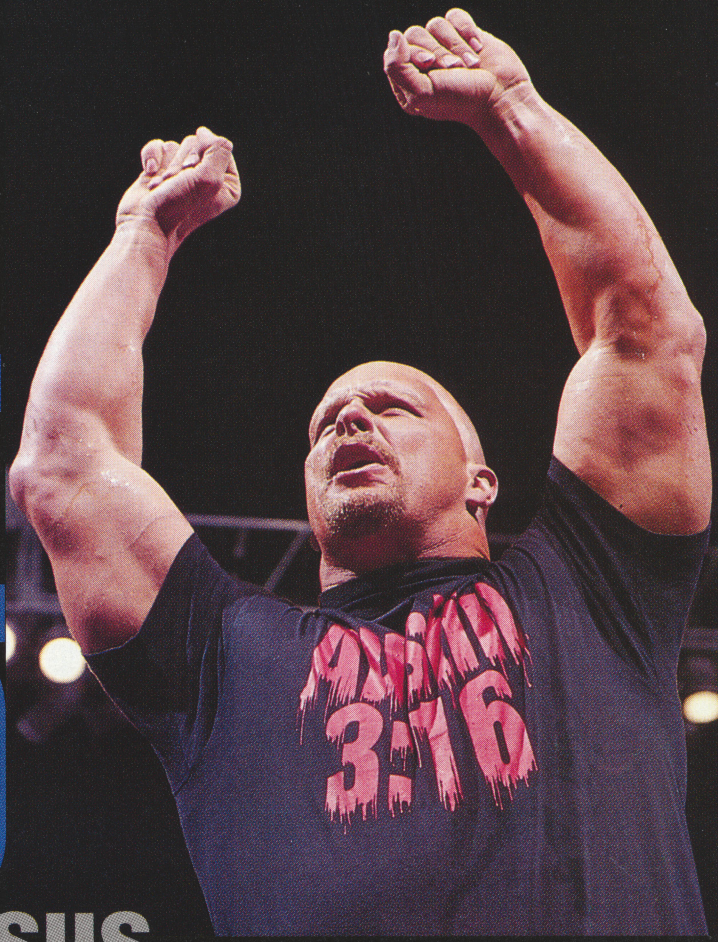
A Rivalry

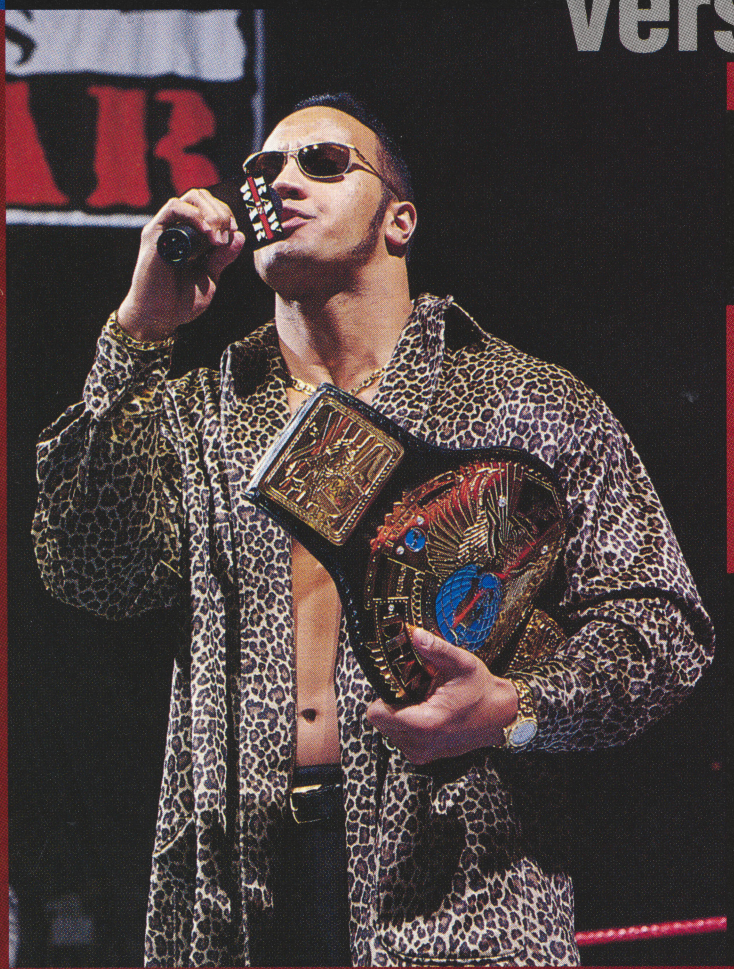
STONE COLD

versus

THE ROCK:

For the Ages





By Keith Elliot Greenberg

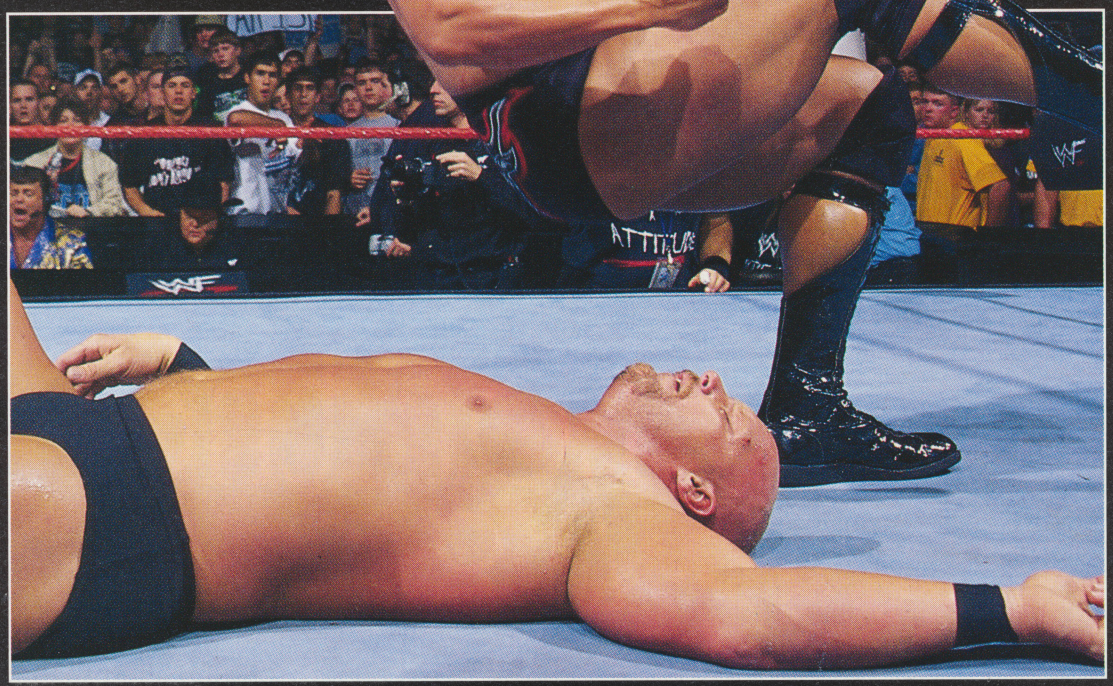
Bruno Sammartino versus Larry Zbyszko. Hulk Hogan versus Randy "Macho Man" Savage. Bret "Hit Man" Hart versus Shawn Michaels. Throughout World Wrestling Federation history, one feud stands out above all the others as a battle of wills so fierce that the usual motives—titles, money, achieving one's place in the sport's annals—seem secondary. In these types of wars, a combatant feels possessed by his adversary and must exorcise him in order to move to the next level. What the wrestler doesn't realize is that his soul will never be purged of his opponent.

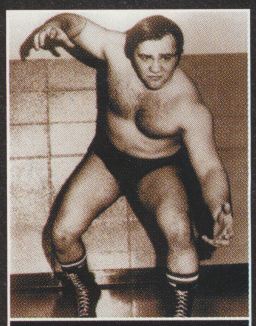
For more than a year, The Rock and Stone Cold Steve Austin have been engaged in this type of fight, achieving a level of antagonism both men will carry for the rest of their lives. Some have argued that the two are so engrossed in the conflict that they barely hear the cries of the fans echoing around them as they smash each other against the guardrail or draw blood with the use of a foreign object or chair. But spectators realize they're watching something unique, a clash that already ranks with the greatest contests of all time.

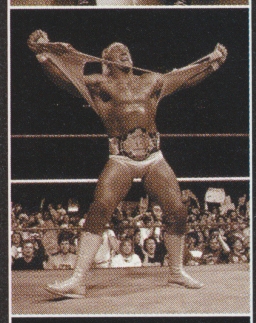
To fans of a certain age, the battles between Austin and The Rock hark back to the savage contests waged by World Wrestling Federation icon Bruno Sammartino and young Larry Zbyszko, a conflict exacerbated by the fact that, both professionally and emotionally, Sammartino was like a father to his rival. Zbyszko was an ambitious teenager when he first approached the two-time World Wrestling Federation titleist at his home, asking to learn the sport of kings. Sammartino was generous with his knowledge, sparing nothing as he coached his pupil on the fundamentals of the game. But as time passed, Zbyszko felt he could not escape his mentor's shadow and asked for a match with the "Living Legend." Sammartino thought he was engaging in a scientific contest, but Zbyszko had other ideas. He bloodied his teacher with a chair and demeaned the reputation Sammartino had worked so hard to build.

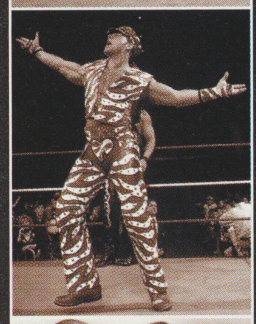
Sammartino pulverized his rival in a memorable Cage Match at New York City's Shea Stadium in 1980. Soured by the experience, however, Bruno retired not long afterward. Zbyszko went on to have an enviable career, becoming the last man to hold the now defunct American Wrestling Association (AWA) title. But the first thing fans remember about the heralded athlete is his betrayal of the man who nurtured him.

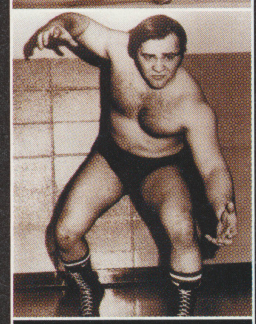
Jealousy was also at the core of the clash between Hulk Hogan and Randy "Macho Man" Savage, who had banded together to form what many say was the mightiest tag team in history. Much like Sammartino, the golden-haired performer who engendered the movement known as Hulka-

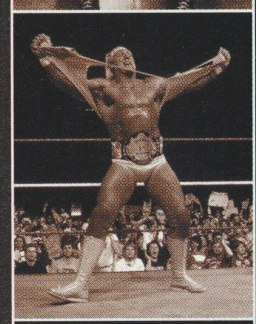


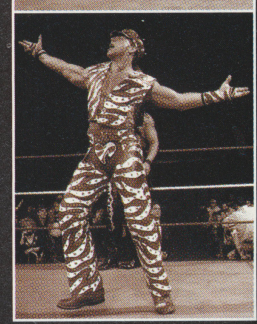


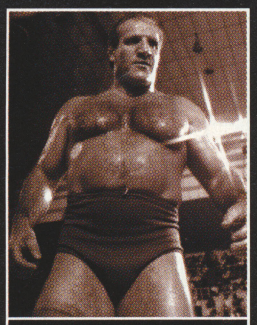


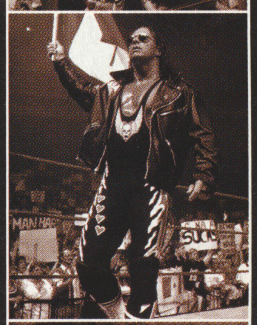


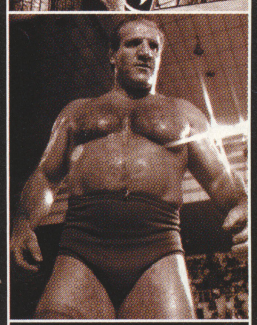


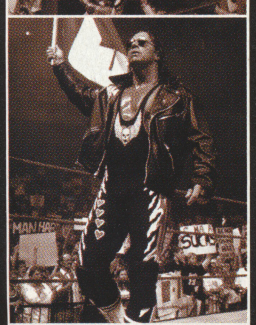


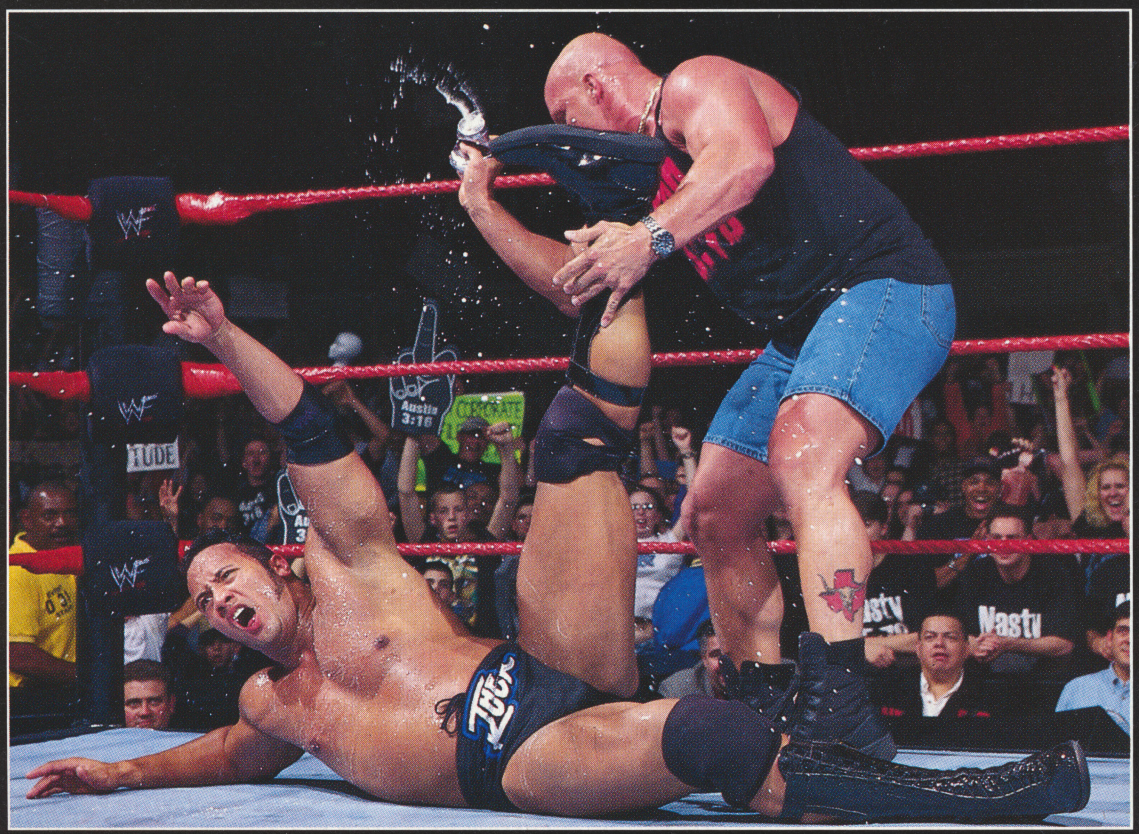








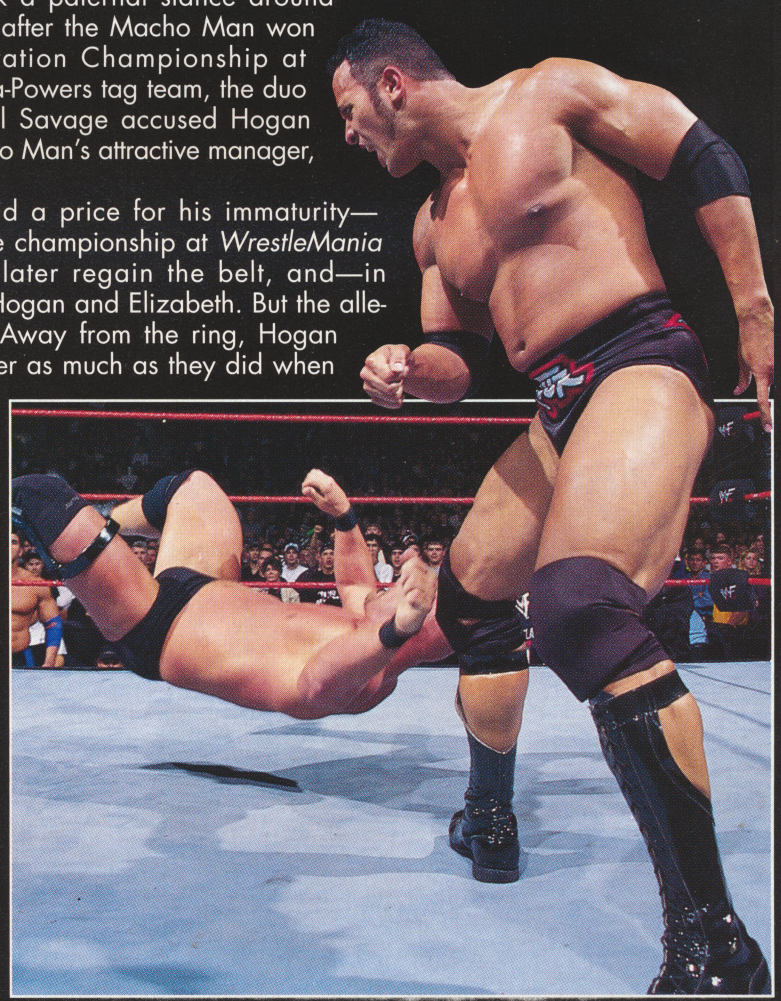




mania in the mid-1980s took a paternal stance around Savage, closely advising him after the Macho Man won the World Wrestling Federation Championship at *WrestleMania* IV. As the Mega-Powers tag team, the duo was seen as unbeatable until Savage accused Hogan of having feelings for the Macho Man's attractive manager, and later wife, Miss Elizabeth.

Like Zbyszko, Savage paid a price for his immaturity—Hogan vanquished him for the championship at *WrestleMania* V in 1989. Savage would later regain the belt, and—in WCW—his partnership with Hogan and Elizabeth. But the allegiance was only superficial. Away from the ring, Hogan and Savage despise each other as much as they did when they faced off a decade ago.

Yet the animosity they felt probably pales in comparison to the hatred Bret "Hit Man" Hart harbored for Shawn Michaels. To Hart, a proud, second-generation competitor, Michaels personified everything that was wrong with professional wrestling. The Heartbreak Kid was flashy, boastful and relatively indifferent to the traditions that precede him. But he was also a great wrestler who'd beaten Bret for the World Wrestling Federation Championship at *WrestleMania* XII in 1996.



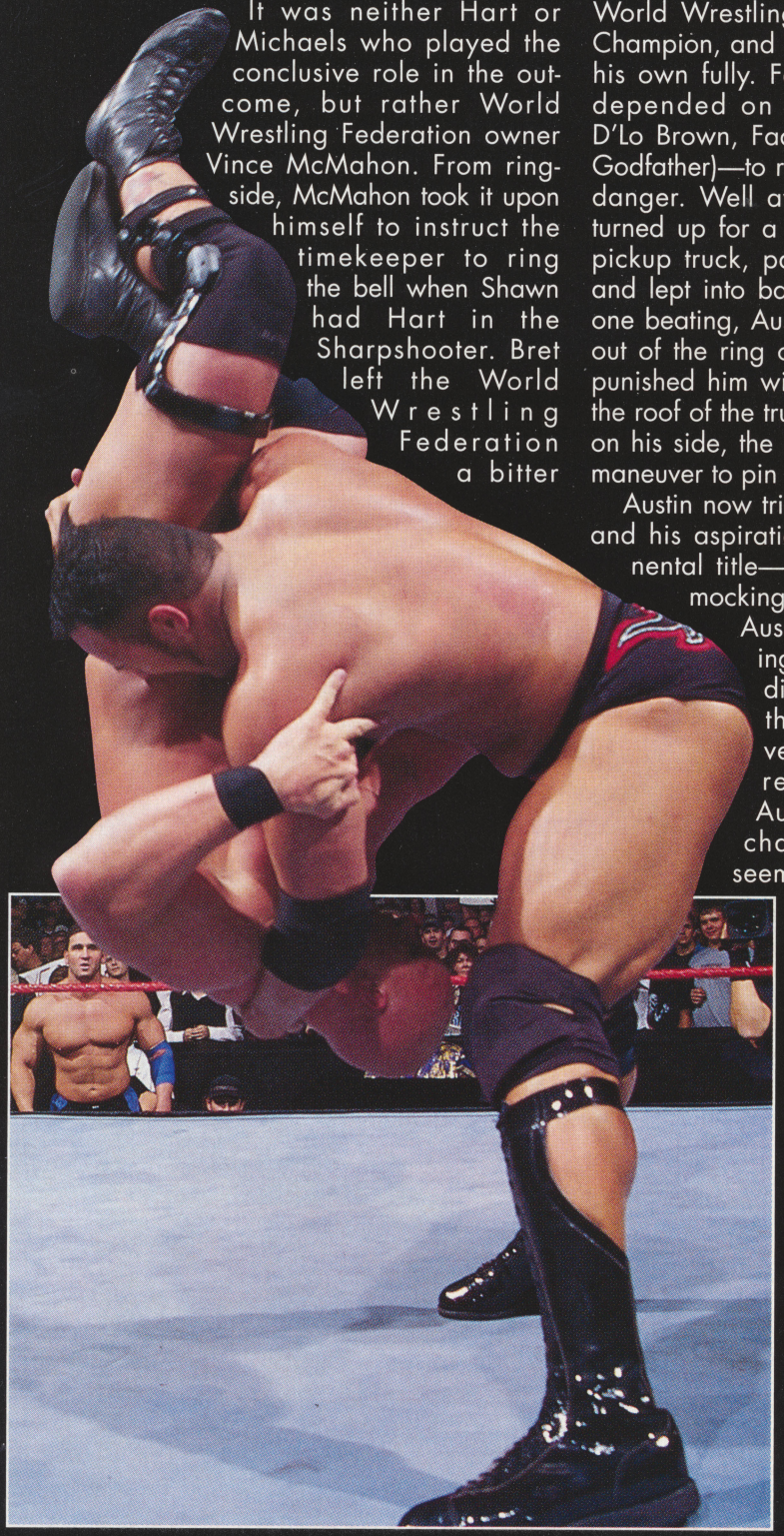
Hart was the titleist again when the pair squared off at the *Survivor Series* in 1997. The "Hit Man" saw the match as an opportunity to undo the humiliation of *WrestleMania* XII, and to prove that he was indeed the greater athlete. Michaels—resentful of Bret's claim to being "the best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be"—vowed that their confrontation would show that the Hit Man was strictly "a legend in his own mind."

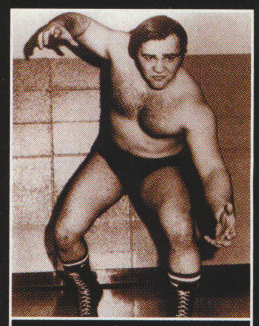
It was neither Hart or Michaels who played the conclusive role in the outcome, but rather World Wrestling Federation owner Vince McMahon. From ringside, McMahon took it upon himself to instruct the timekeeper to ring the bell when Shawn had Hart in the Sharpshooter. Bret left the World Wrestling Federation a bitter man immediately after the match. As for Shawn, he continues to gloat about the double-cross—particularly in his new role as Mr. McMahon's appointed World Wrestling Federation Commissioner.

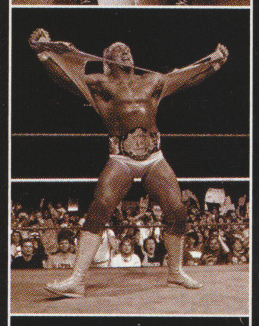
For months the controversy surrounding this confrontation was the talk of wrestling. As fans were distracted by the heated rhetoric, the enmity between The Rock and Austin was building. In December 1997, Austin was the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champion, and The Rock had yet to come into his own fully. Fearful of being outshone, he depended on his allies in the Nation—D'Lo Brown, Faarooq and Kama (a/k/a The Godfather)—to rush to his aid when he was in danger. Well aware of his situation, Austin turned up for a memorable match in a black pickup truck, parked the vehicle at ringside and lept into battle. After surviving a four-on-one beating, Austin managed to backflip D'Lo out of the ring onto the windshield, and then punished him with the Stone Cold Stunner on the roof of the truck's cab. With the momentum on his side, the Rattlesnake used his signature maneuver to pin The Rock.

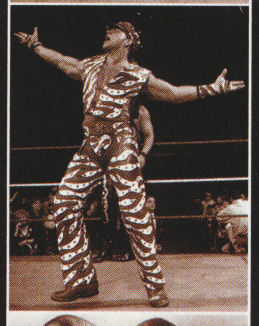
Austin now tried to pretend that The Rock—and his aspirations of holding the Intercontinental title—meant little to him. Brazenly mocking Mr. McMahon and his titles, Austin surrendered the belt, tossing it off a bridge and feigning disinterest as officials bestowed the championship on his adversary. When questioned by reporters about The Rock, Austin claimed he had bigger challenges... and his actions seemed to match his words. He triumphed at the 1998 *Royal Rumble* and made World Wrestling Federation history by capturing the championship at *WrestleMania* XIV.

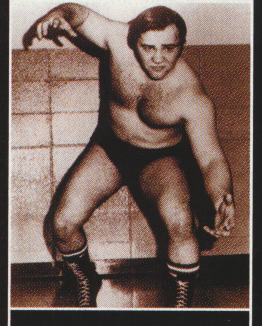
Meanwhile, The Rock was catching up with his enemy. Having developed confidence in his own talents, he detached himself from the Nation and aligned himself with the person who could do the most for his career—Vince McMahon. With the Federation owner controlling the situation, Austin's title was voided in a Triple Threat Match with Kane and the Undertaker in September. Two months later—

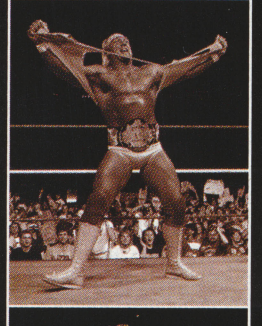


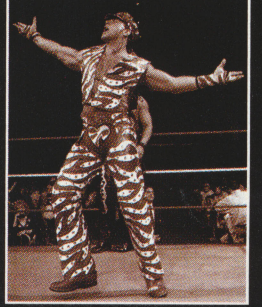


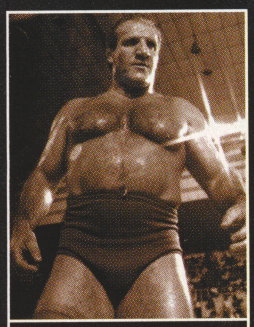


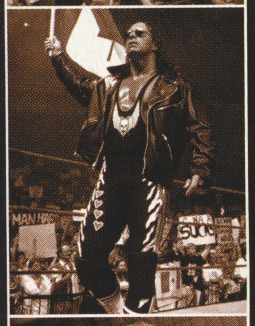
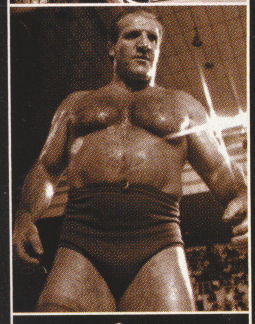


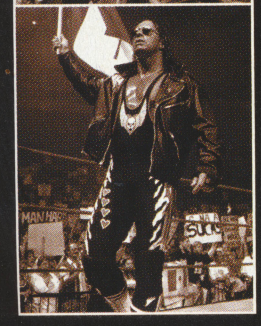






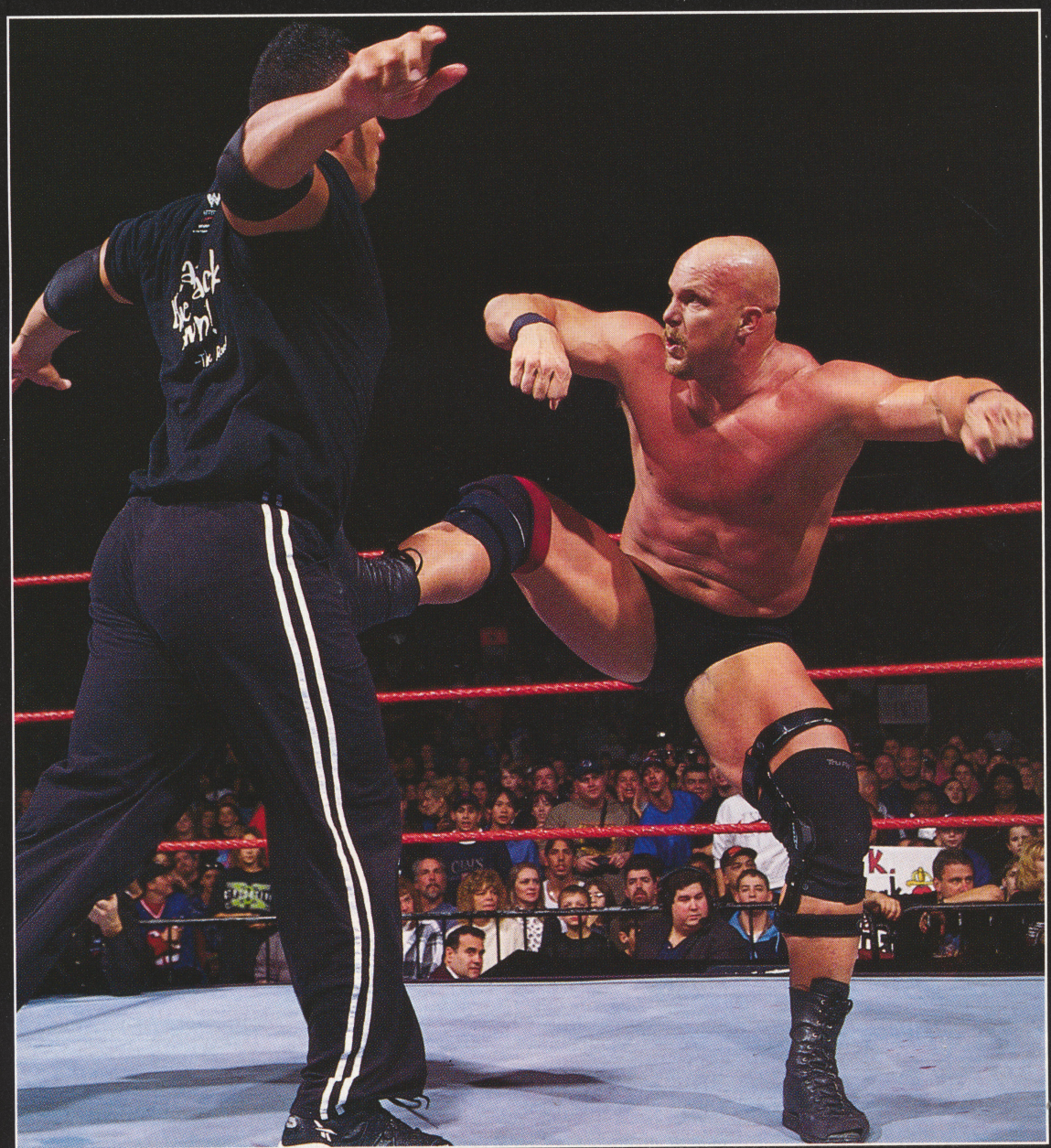




a year after the Hart-Michaels *Survivor Series* debacle—Mr. McMahon again used his sway to have an employee determine the finish of a title match. At his boss' urging, the timekeeper rang the bell, as The Rock held Mankind in the Sharpshooter in the final match of a championship tournament.

Austin's simmering contempt for The Rock exploded the following night on *Raw Is War*, when the Rattlesnake challenged his perennial foe for the championship. Fans screamed themselves hoarse, as the two brawled at ringside and in the audience. Austin seemed to have the match won, trapping his opponent in a pinning combination, when Ken Shamrock—The Rock's cohort in McMahon's corporate alliance—tugged on the challenger's foot, flustering him. The Rattlesnake slugged Shamrock, and then turned to face an even greater threat—the Undertaker swinging, and connecting, with a shovel. As much as Austin yearns to punish the Undertaker, The Rock holds a special place for Stone Cold. When all other opponents are cast aside, The Rock will still be standing there, raising an eyebrow and mocking the man most fans consider the best of his time. Because of the era in which these particular combatants have risen to the top of their game, this feud means more than the encounters between Sammartino and Zbyszko, Hogan and Savage or Hart and Michaels. Wrestling has now evolved to where Austin and The Rock have transcended the mat wars and become pop culture trendsetters. Thus, when we remember the last great battle of the 20th century, we'll recall its impact not only on the gladiators who broke each other's bodies in the ring, but on society at large. WF



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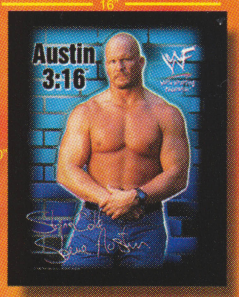
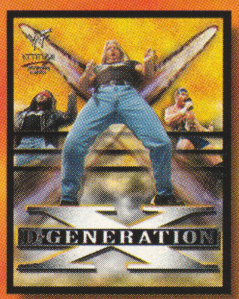
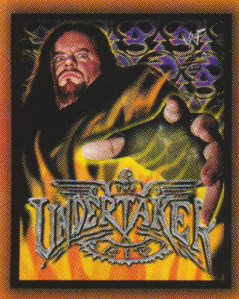


Steve Austin



D-Generation X



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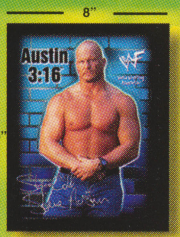

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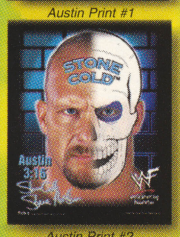

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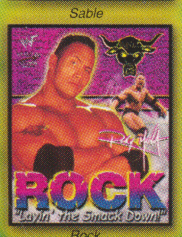

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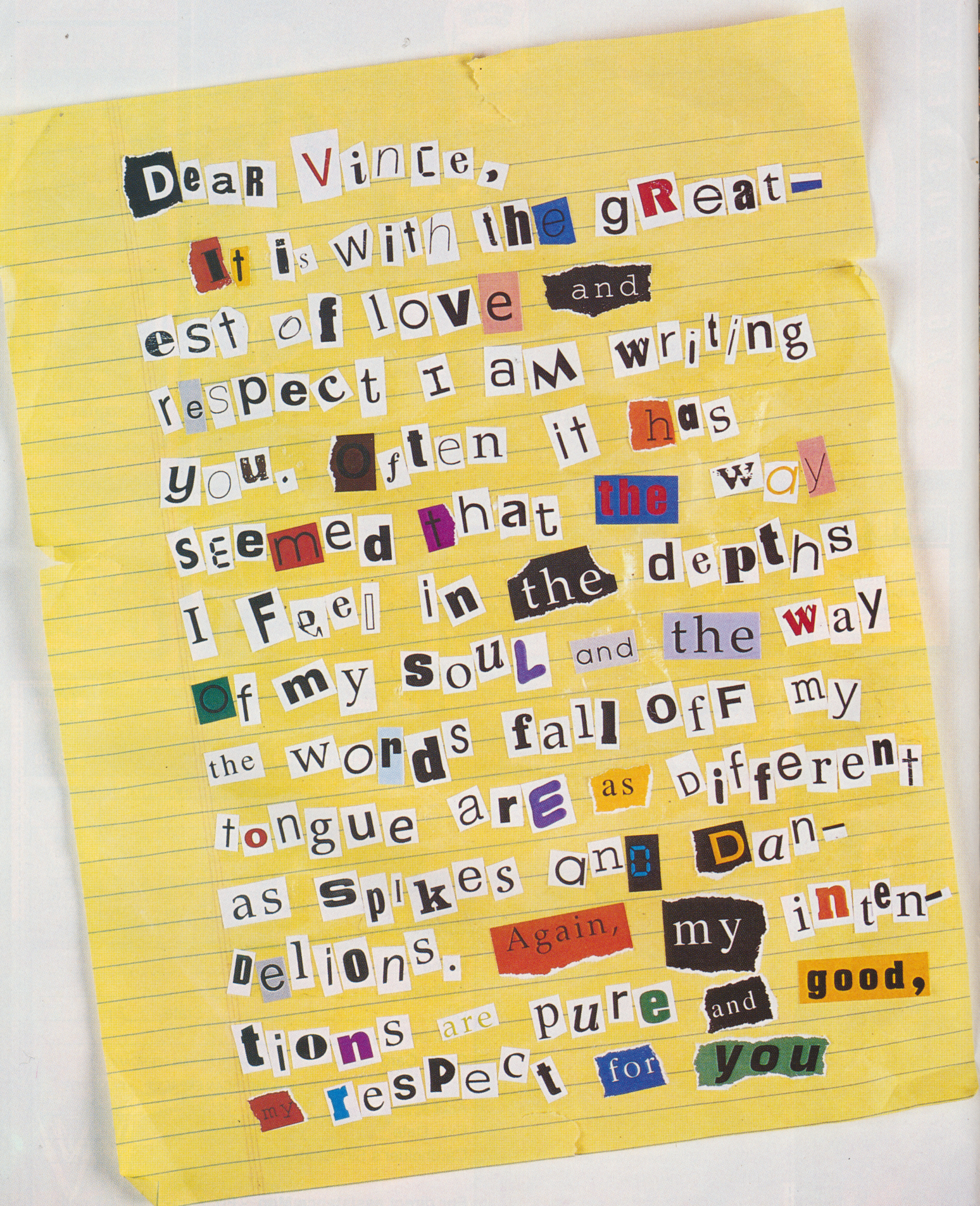
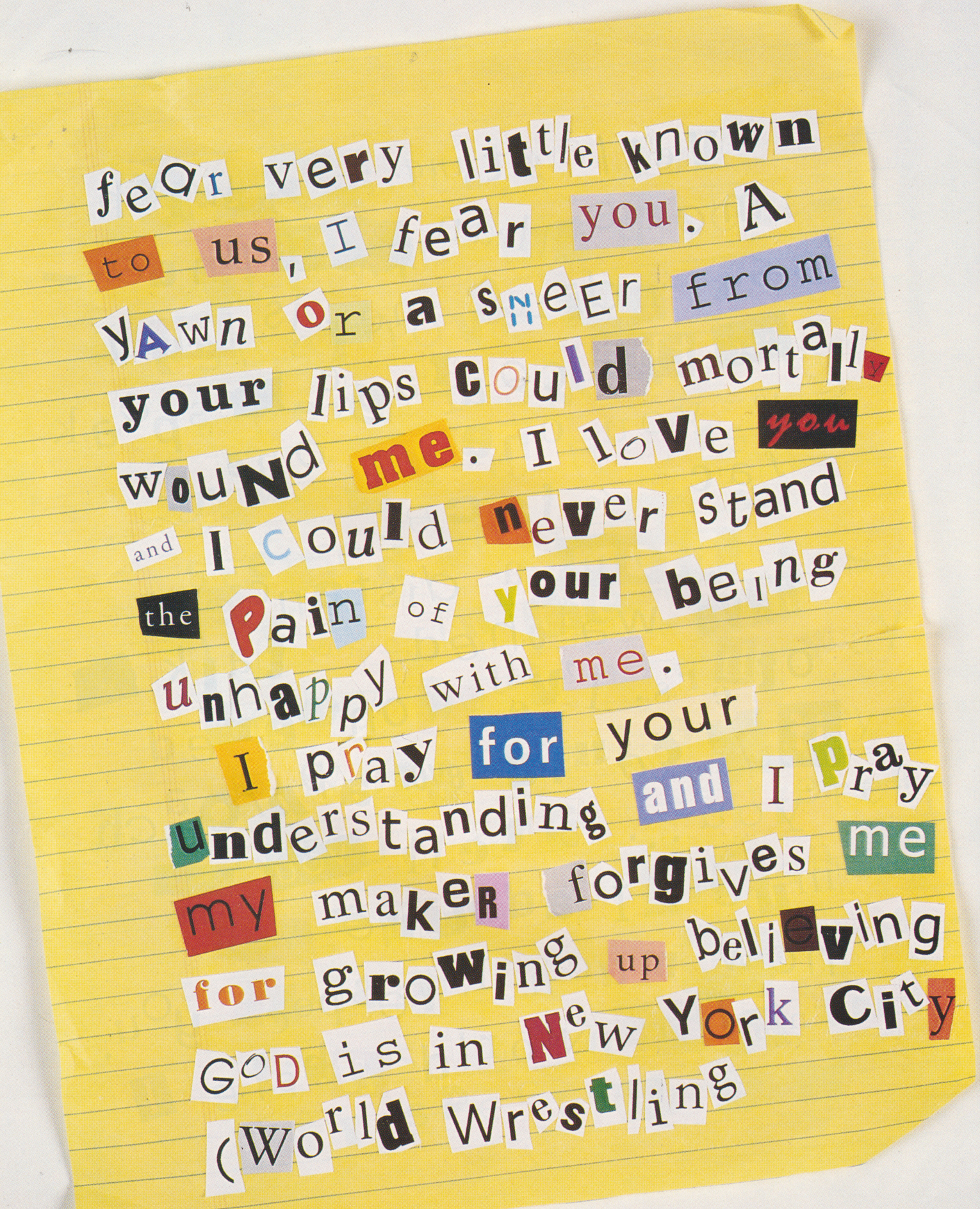

Dear Vince,
It is with the great-
est of love and
respect I am writing
you. Often it has
seemed that the way
I feel in the depths
of my soul and the way
the words fall off my
tongue are as different
as spikes and Dan-
delions. Again, my
intentions are pure and good,
my respect for you

everlasting. My wish-
more than you under-
standing me - is that I
had the courage to speak
to you one on one,
face to face.

From a distance I
have watched you talk to
others. I've wondered
if I could ever approach
you ... to tell you how
much I admire you,
how much I respect you.
In This world where I


fear very little known
to us, I fear you. A
yawn or a sneer from
your lips could mortally
wound me. I love you
and I could never stand
the pain of your being
unhappy with me.
I pray for your
understanding and I pray
my maker forgives me
for growing up believing
GOD is in New York City
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Federation) and Madison Square Garden is Heaven. I know enough to know I am of huge value to you. I want nothing but the best for both of us. I am the ultimate female force in women's wrestling. The only thing I ask for is the Women's Championship... I am Luna, Luna Vachon.

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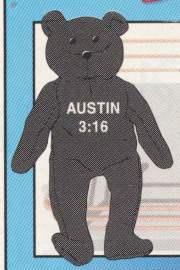

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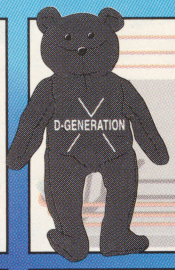

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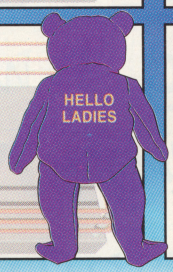

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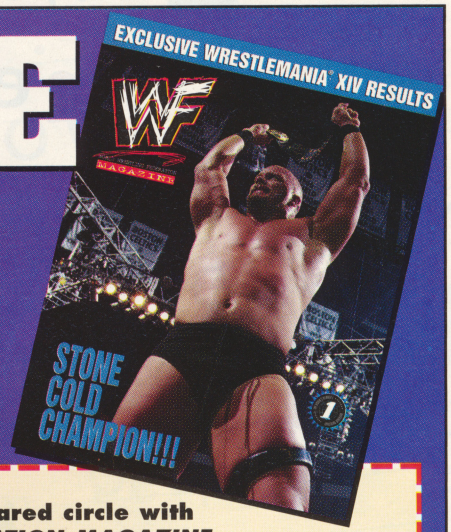

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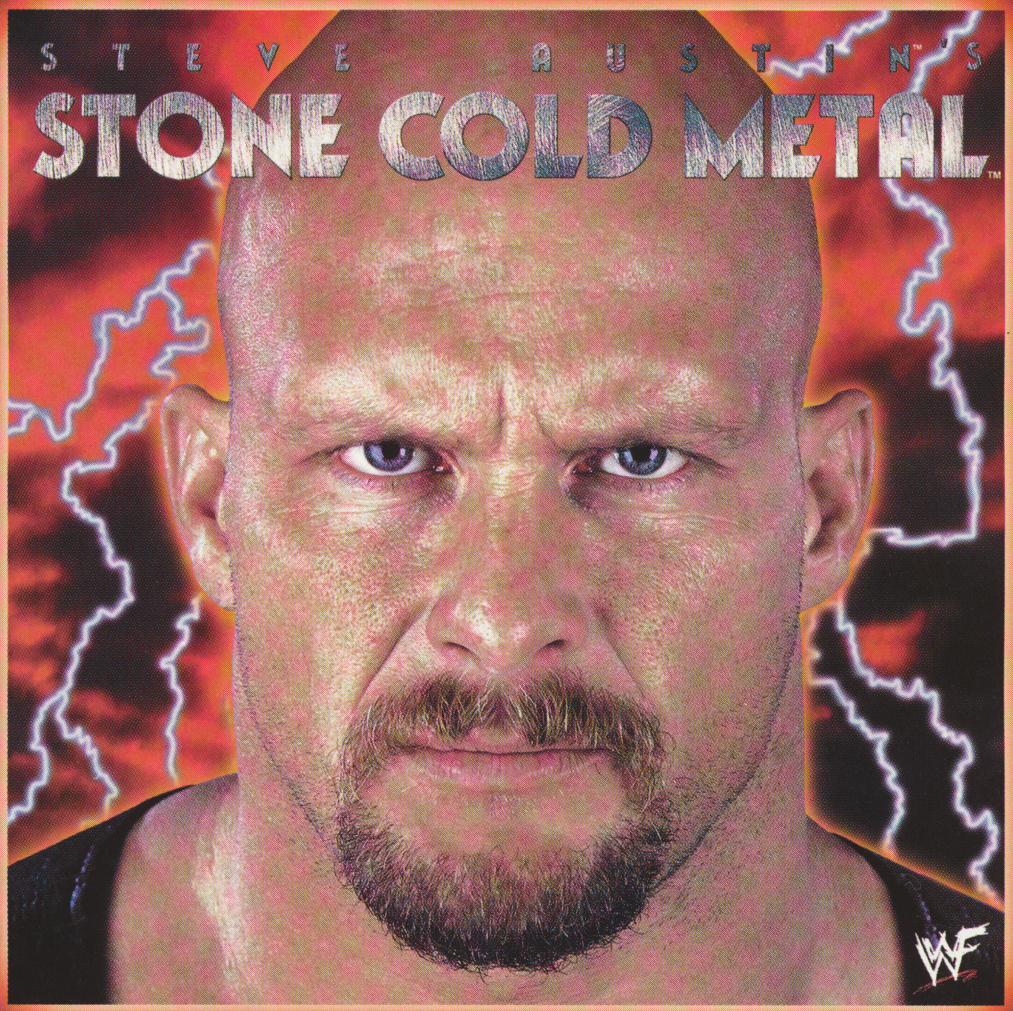

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To Protect and Serve?

How Long Will the Big Boss Man Remain a Team Player?

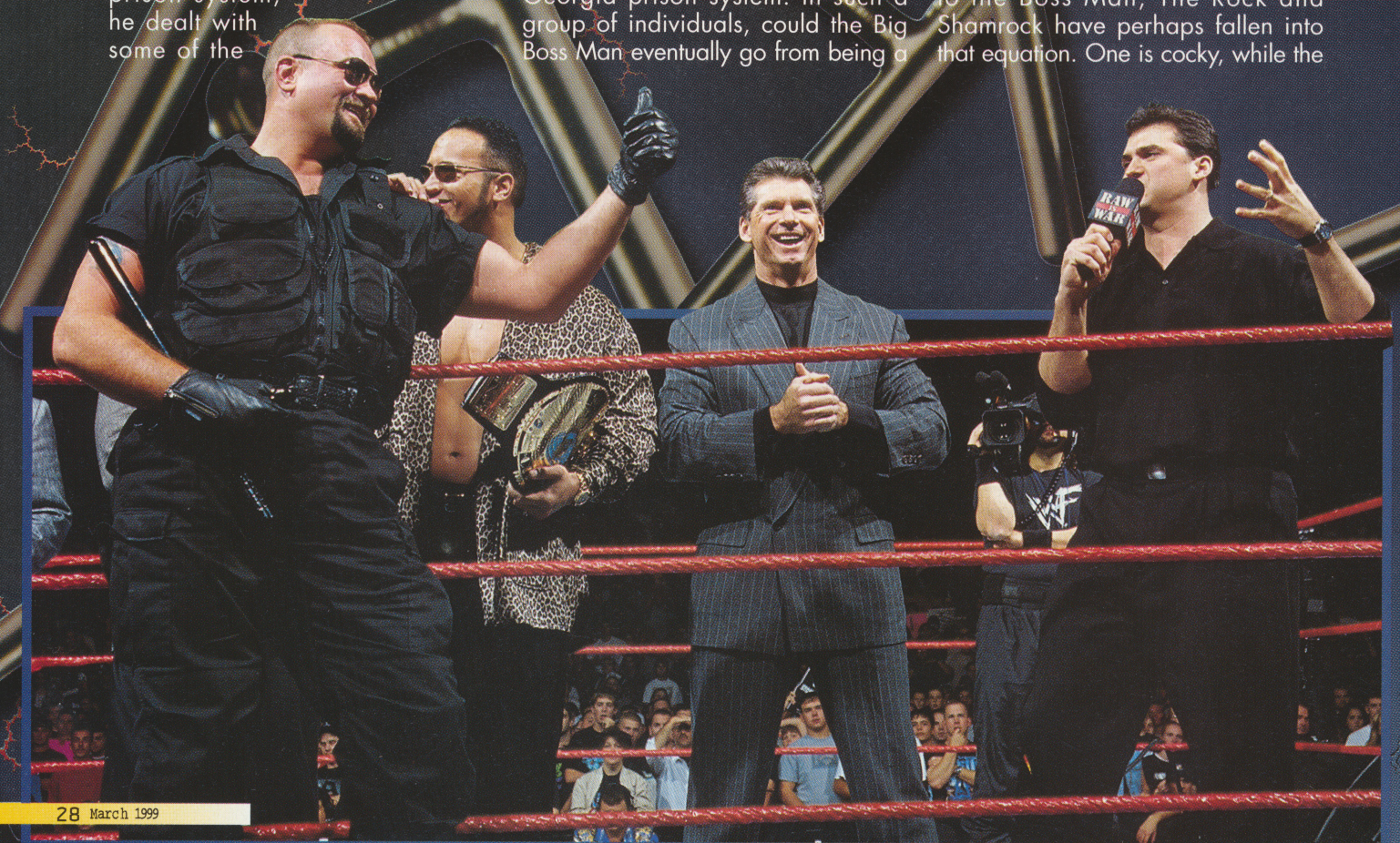
By Bill Banks

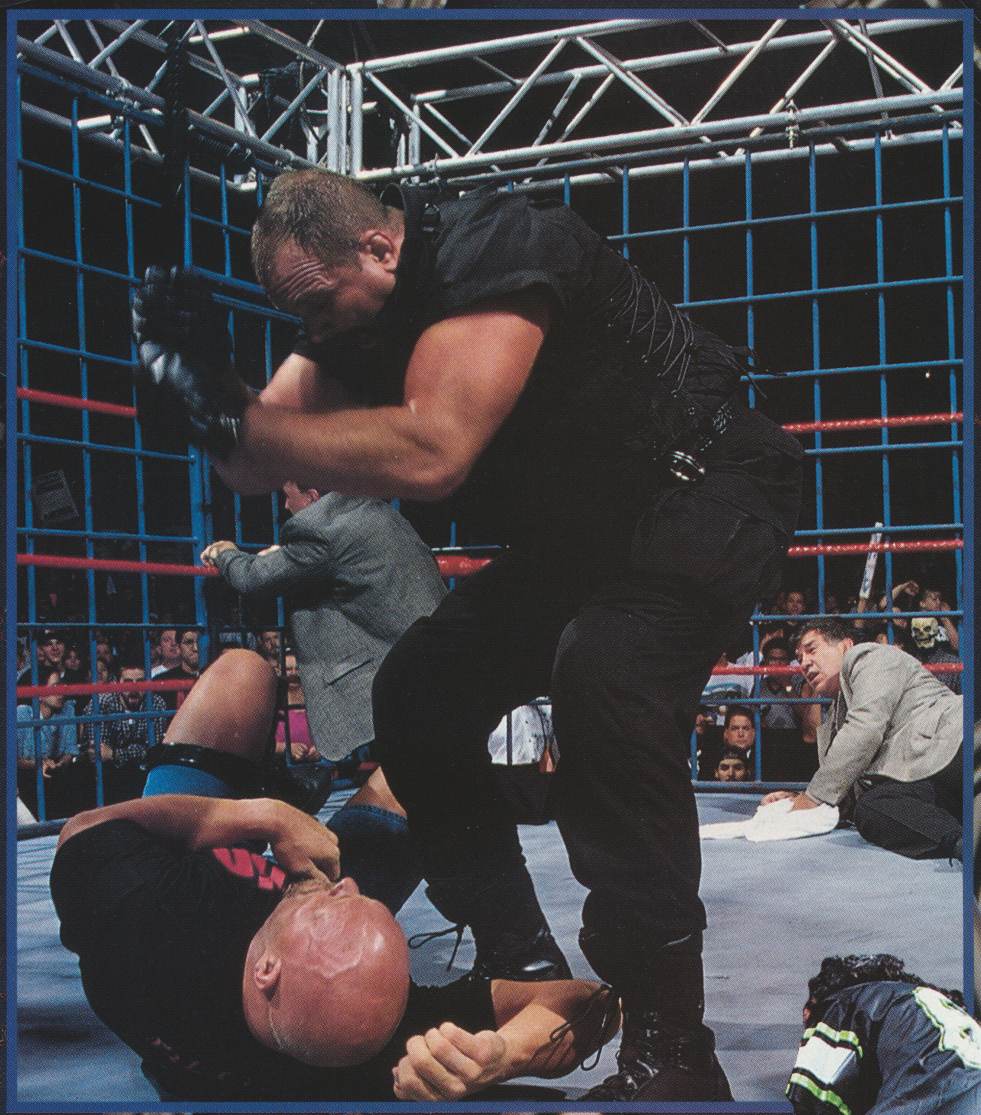
Georgia's prison systems are among the toughest in the United States. With over 37,000 inmates in 39 prisons and 24 county work and boot camps, the state has the eighth largest number of incarcerated adults in the country. The prison system has a reputation for being tough—inmates must wear uniforms and spend most of their days in cells or dorms with no creature comforts.

Just north of Atlanta, Georgia, lies Cobb County—the Big Boss Man's stomping ground. During his heyday as a corrections officer in the state's prison system, he dealt with some of the worst law breakers in America. Those who found themselves the unlucky prisoners of the Boss Man either reformed... or suffered the consequences.

Now the hired protection of World Wrestling Federation owner Mr. McMahon, the Big Boss Man's capacity is to protect and serve Team Corporate. As a part of his duties, he's coupled with The Rock, Shawn Michaels, Ken Shamrock and Shane McMahon, which is perhaps a mixture of egos waiting to explode. All these volatile personalities create an atmosphere comparable to the Georgia prison system. In such a group of individuals, could the Big Boss Man eventually go from being a team player to dishing out some hard time? If problems arise in Team Corporate, will his role change from Vince's bodyguard... to corporate babysitter?

A veteran of the sport for more than a decade, the Boss Man has seen his share of superstars rise through the ranks. The Rock and Ken Shamrock, two cornerstones of Team Corporate, have less than four years combined experience. In that time their talents have quadrupled, as has their penchant for recklessness. In any sport, youth and instant fame often make bad bedfellows. Compared to the Boss Man, The Rock and Shamrock have perhaps fallen into that equation. One is cocky, while the





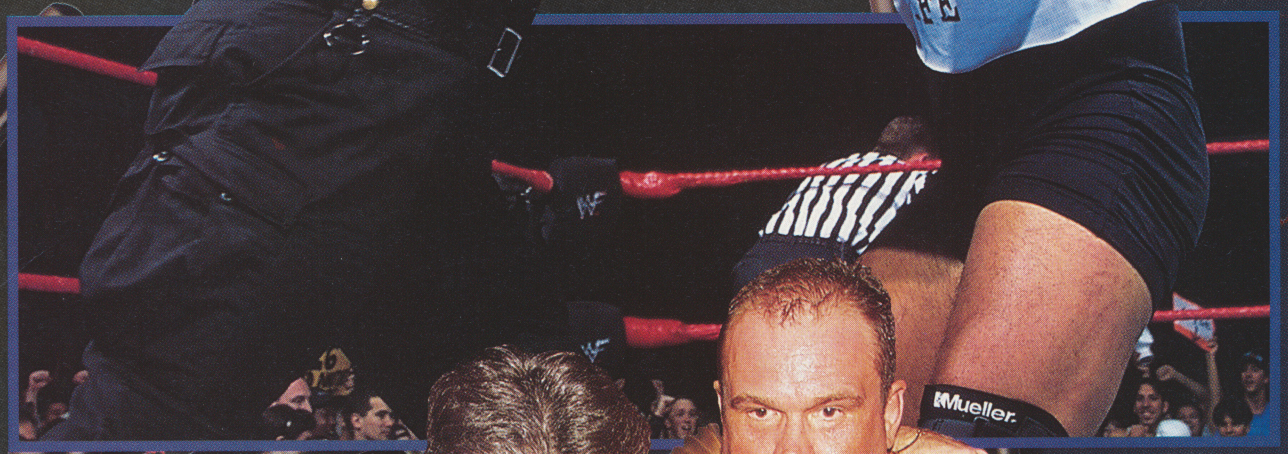
other is out of control at times. You might even say they mirror the same mentality that the Boss Man saw in the Georgia prisons for so many years. If one or both of them were to get out of line, would the strong arm of Team Corporate revert to his old ways and "correct" them?

Commissioner Shawn Michaels is another superstar who might potentially get on the bad side of the Boss Man. When Vince elevated the Heartbreak Kid to his new role, he made it clear that Michaels would rule over every Federation employee, except Stone Cold Steve Austin. Theoretically, this means the Commissioner oversees the nightstick-wielding enforcer as well.

Throughout his Federation career Michaels has been the consummate antagonist, rebelling against authority at every opportunity. Now that he's the one calling the shots, how unruly will he be? During his first run in the World Wrestling Federation, the Boss Man despised such arrogance. He put men such as Slick, Ted DiBiase and the Mountie in his crosshairs, taking them down like common criminals. In one form or another, these stars exploited the system for their own personal gain. How long before Shawn's intrinsic arrogance rubs the Boss Man the wrong way? If Michaels abuses his power to the point where it affects his fellow Team Corporate members, would the Boss Man be compelled to restrain him with the same brute force he used on his former enemies?

Shane McMahon, the youngest member of Team Corporate, will one day assume ownership of the World Wrestling Federation from his father. Meanwhile he has flaunted his standing in the company, almost like a kid polishing up dad's prized Ferrari before he's even of legal age to drive. In Georgia, officers patrol state highways waiting for college students to speed through. In fact, some say that it's become a sort of pasttime for law enforcement in the state. If Shane shifts into overdrive with his attitude, would the Boss Man curb the owner's son? The Cobb County native has dealt with his share of young, undisciplined inmates. What if the heir apparent decides to see how far he can push the former corrections officer?

The Big Boss Man has proven that he is completely loyal to Team Corporate. With far more explosive personalities now in the mix, how long before the chemistry of the alliance turns volatile? If that happens, the Boss Man might take matters into his own hands... because the Georgia law man would never let the inmates run the system.



PERSONALITY PROFILE

Favorite Band/Singer:
Metallica

Biggest Thrill In Life:
The day my two little girls were born.

Person You Would Most Like To Meet:
Elvis Presley

Favorite Sport (besides wrestling):
Baseball

Favorite Athlete:
Picabo Street

Favorite Television Show:
Dragnet

Hobbies:
Spending time with my family and hunting.

Favorite Food:
Raw meat

Favorite Fast Food:
Arby's

Favorite Actor:
Brad Pitt

Favorite Actress:
Sandra Bullock

Favorite Movie:
The Battle of the Bulge

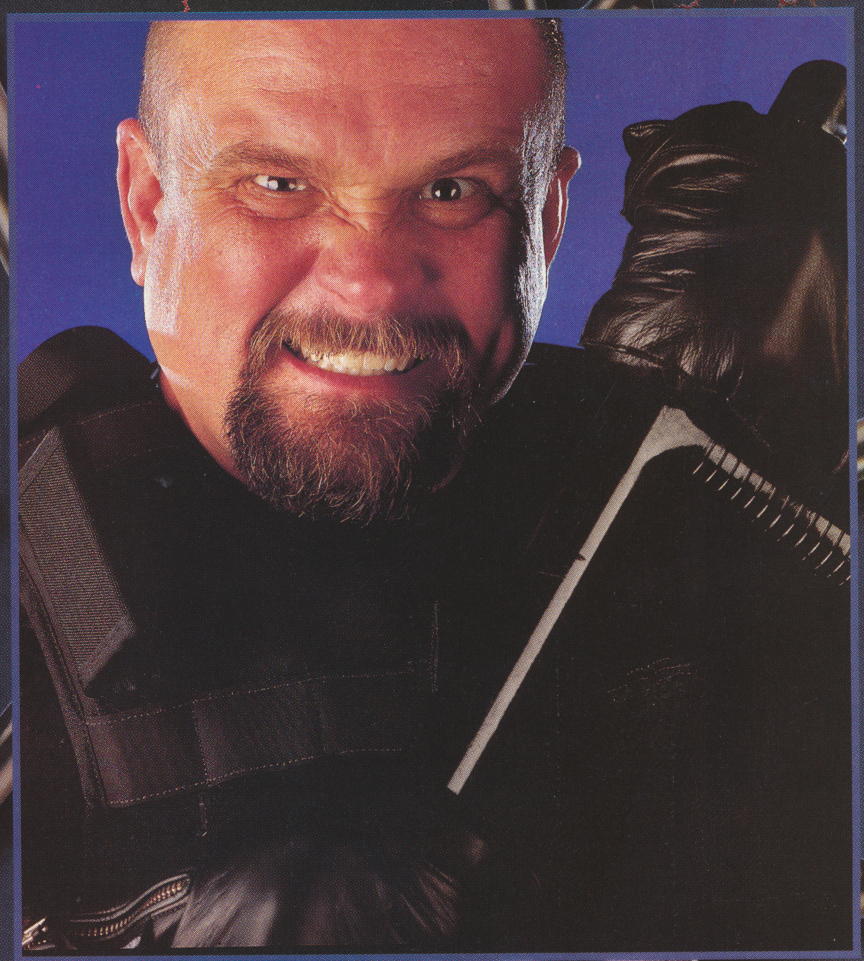
If I Could Have Done It Differently, I Would Have...
Kept it all the same.

Secret Talent:
I can relate to kids.

Best Advice Ever Received:
Treat other people the same way you'd like to be treated.

Favorite Video Game:
Tetris

Favorite Cartoon Character:
Bugs Bunny



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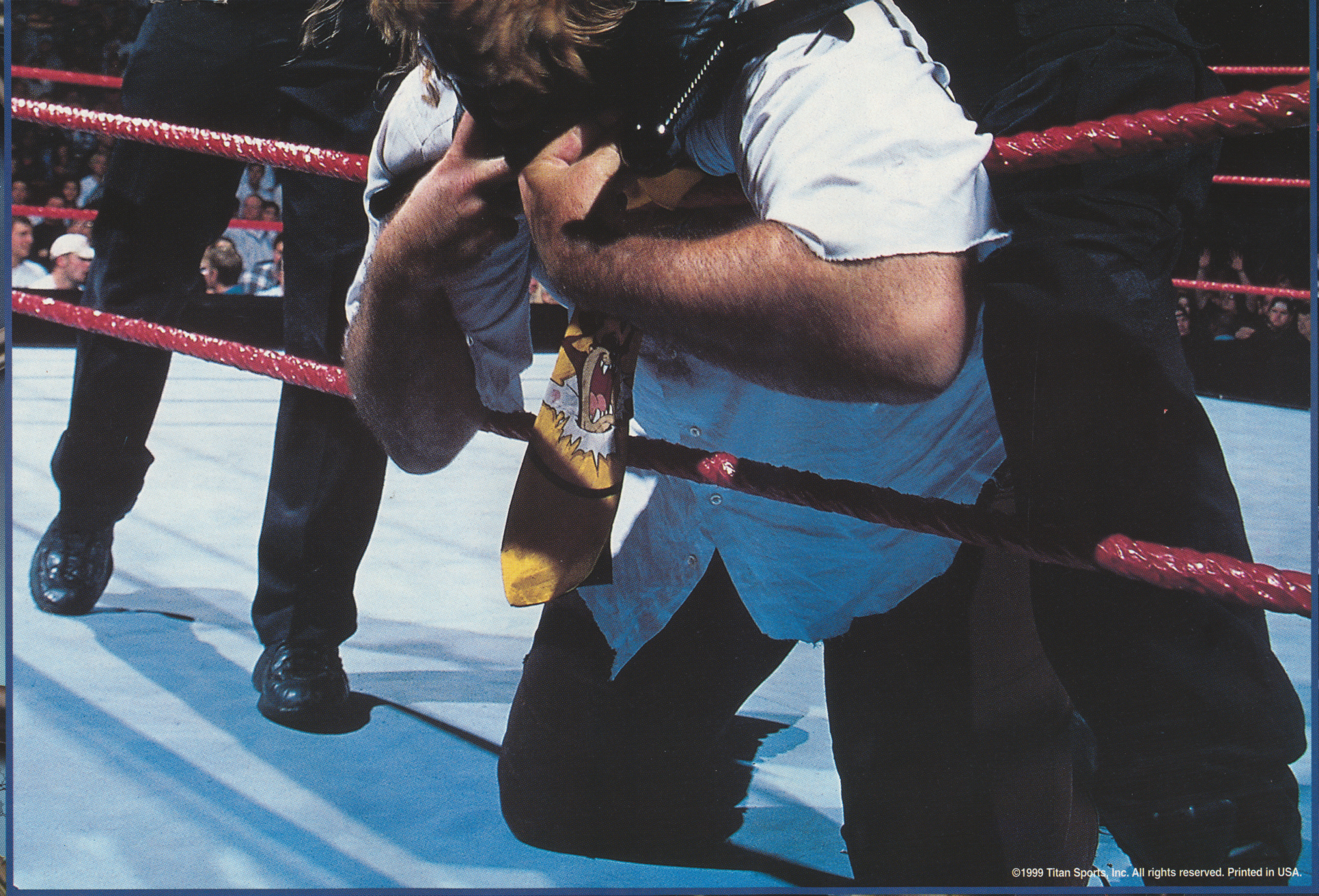

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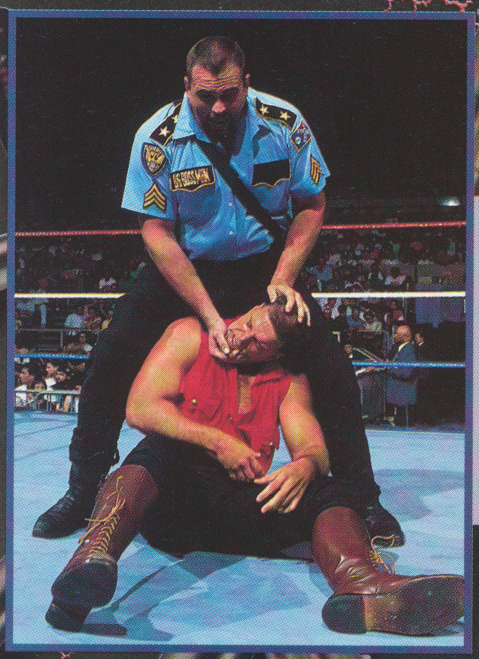
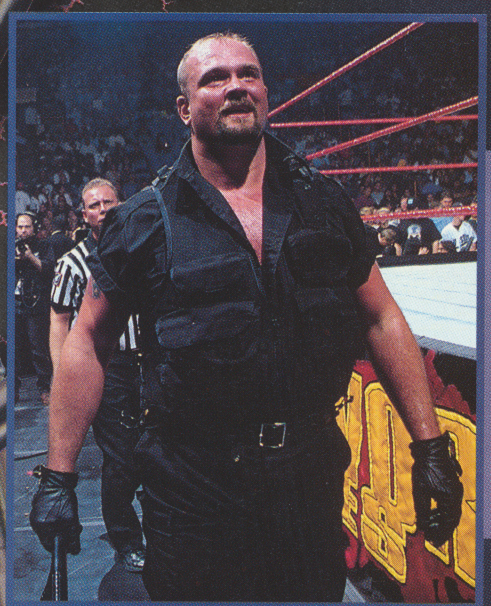
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



At *SummerSlam* 1991, the Big Boss Man was the judge, jury and executioner when he faced fellow law man the Mountie in the first-ever Jailhouse Match. After the Cobb County, Georgia native brutalized his foe and planted him with the Boss Man Slam, two of New York City's finest helped haul the Mountie off to a local jail. Thanks to the Boss Man, his foe was treated like a common criminal. After being booked and fingerprinted, the superstar was tossed in a cell with two inmates who also believed in the code of the Canadian Mounties—they too wanted to get their man!

After more than a five-year absence from the World Wrestling Federation, the Big Boss Man made his surprise return on the October 12, 1998, *RAW* from the Nassau Coliseum in Nassau, New York. The former corrections officer, under a hood, appeared at Mr. McMahon's side throughout the broadcast. Later that night as Stone Cold Steve Austin battled the Undertaker and Kane, the Boss Man stormed the ring, knocked the Rattlesnake unconscious with his nightstick and revealed his identity to the world! The following week, fans learned that the Boss Man was now the lethal protector of Mr. McMahon.



The Big Boss Man played an important role in helping Mr. McMahon realize his vision of a corporate champion at the 1998 *Survivor Series*: "Deadly Game" tournament. After battering Stone Cold Steve Austin in his first-round loss, the Cobb County native returned under Vince's ruling—despite his elimination—to face The Rock who, on orders from McMahon, beat him in a record four seconds! In the next round, "botched" interference by the Boss Man helped The Rock advance over Ken Shamrock. By the end of the night, however, the former corrections officer's motives were exposed—it was all a ploy to help The Rock capture the championship!

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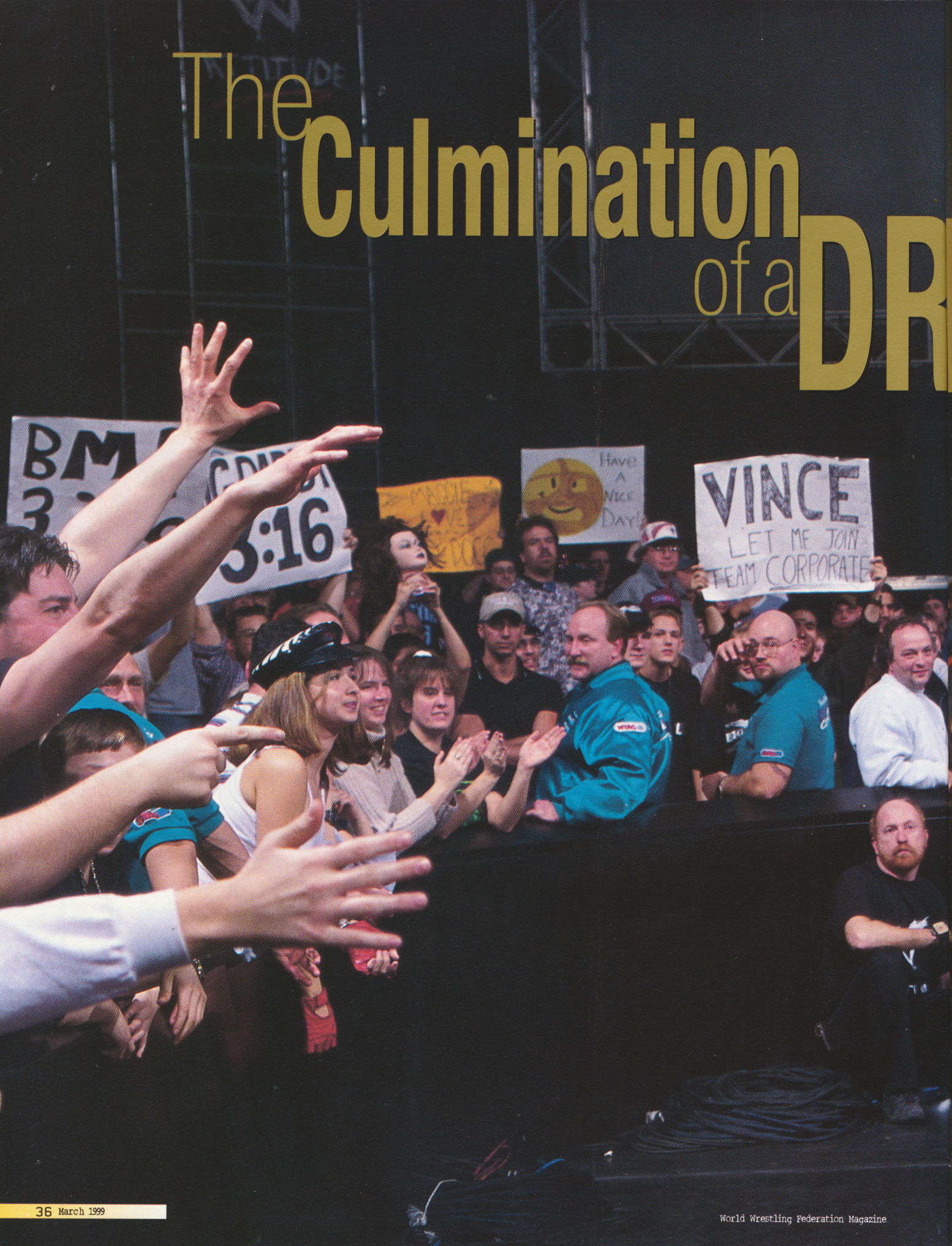

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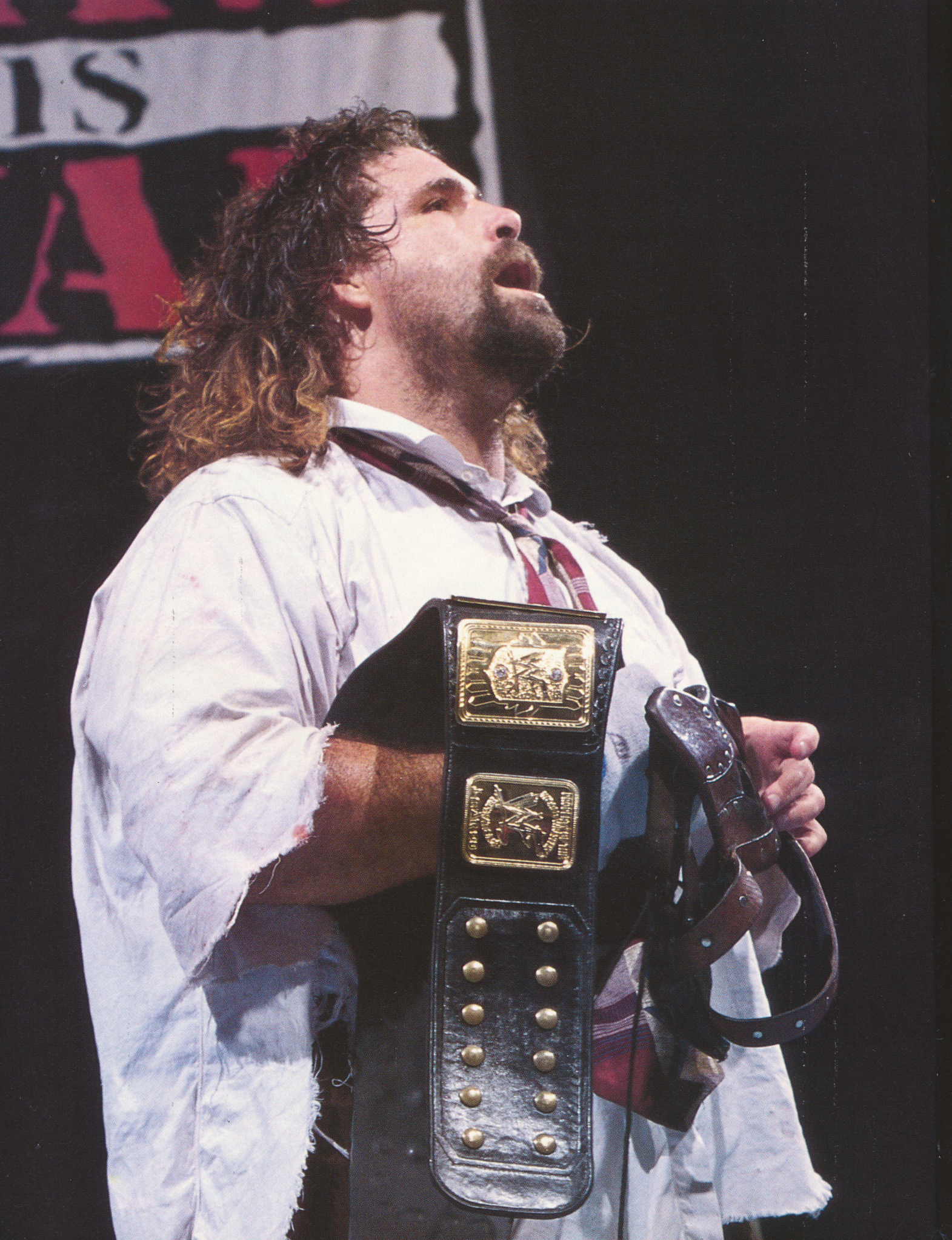
By Kevin Kelly



He will no longer be remembered as the guy who fell from the sky and lived to tell about it.

He will no longer be remembered as the kid who ate worms to ward off the school-yard bullies.

He will forever be remembered as a World Wrestling Federation Champion.

No matter what the length of Mick Foley's reign, history will record that on a snowy evening in Worcester, Massachusetts, the "King of Hardcore" became the "King of Sports-Entertainment". He overcame the odds—not from ringside adversaries, but from the doubters who said he would never make it and all the years of toil and punishment, which have nearly guaranteed him a future as a cripple.

Mrs. Foley's baby boy grew up with that strange threshold for pain. We've never been able to describe it and I think, sometimes, we take it for granted. Through every painful step, Mick's career has been punctuated by physically deforming landmarks. Like monuments built for heroes, every scar represents a memory, a story to tell his grandchildren from what very well might be a wheelchair. But just like a visitor to a symbolic statue, Foley's fans remember the stories of their hero's triumphs and anguish and will surely pass them on to future generations.

While Mick pays a price to leave a legacy behind, his family sees the toll it has taken along the way. Mick's wife, Collette, agonized when her husband cheated death in the infamous Hell in a Cell match at the 1998 *King of the Ring*. From their home in the Florida panhandle, she could do nothing but wait for the traditional post-match phone call from her husband while their two children wondered if Daddy would be alright.

Horrible! was how Collette Foley described her feelings as Mick suffered through a career in Japan that permanently scarred her husband.

"But the Hell in a Cell match was probably the epitome of what he had endured," Collette explained. "All the endless injuries, especially to the head... I know that one of these days he's going to slow down. It's amazing to me that he has lasted this long."

The fear of the inevitable in her voice is obvious. She would dearly love for him to stop, but knows she can't stop him. Collette has had to rely on the faith in what she describes as Mick's "vision" to get her through the past 14 years.

"When he's coughing up blood on TV, I can see it," she laments. "But I am relying on that faith in the insight he has [to know he'll be alright]."

A leap of faith from a roof top onto a pile of mattresses during the making of a home movie is where the journey for Mick to the top began. Hardly a road well-traveled for men who have previously held the same title, but it was the only path for Mick. As we saw during his teenage "Dude Love" years, Mick's singular dream was to one day become the World Wrestling Federation Champion. The leap we saw the adolescent Mick Foley make hurt like hell. But he got up...

He kept getting up, you know. The Death Matches, the Barbed Wire, Hell in a Cell... one day, however, he may not get up. It is a reality that all athletes must face. Mick and Collette have talked about this possibility. Sure, it scares them, but Collette realizes the pride her husband has in his job drives him. No matter how hurt he is, when he comes home it's family time. Trips to Disney World are a must for the Foleys. Perhaps there is no bigger fan of Christmas than Mick. On that cold December evening, Santa Claus brought Mick the present that he's always wanted. St. Nick knew what a good boy Mick really is...

Accomplishment. Collette believes that is what winning the Federation Championship means to her husband.

"This is his destiny. He lived out his dream from when he was 15 years old by getting to be Dude Love, but this is the icing on the cake. The cake has been delicious, but this is the icing..."

After becoming the Federation Champion, Mick spoke to the crowd about what winning the championship means to him. Even though this was the greatest moment in his professional career, the celebration wasn't about him. It was about his family. He dedicated the match to his two children, Dewey and Noelle. Collette said the kids have grown up with Mick on the road, so the family is well adjusted. The Hell in a Cell match scared the kids, however. That made what Daddy does on TV, it appears, a little too real.

Apologies and explanations followed that night and the Foley family seemed to grow closer because of it.

Revelling in victory, Mick Foley received a hero's celebration from D-Generation X. For Mick, being in with DX would never have happened when he was a kid. They were the cool clique and he just didn't fit in. But as adults, those barriers can be broken down, if only momentarily. Not only were they happy for Mick, but it was also a shot against the establishment. Beating Mr. McMahon, even if it only happens once and lasts but an instant is satisfying for those like Mick and the degenerates, who don't fit the corporate mold.

Back home, Collette knows a hero's welcome awaits Mick when he returns from the road—not only because he is the Federation Champion, but just because he's home.

Dewey and Noelle already know that "Big Daddy-O is King!" WF

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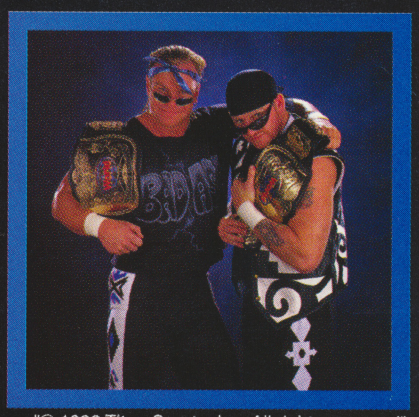

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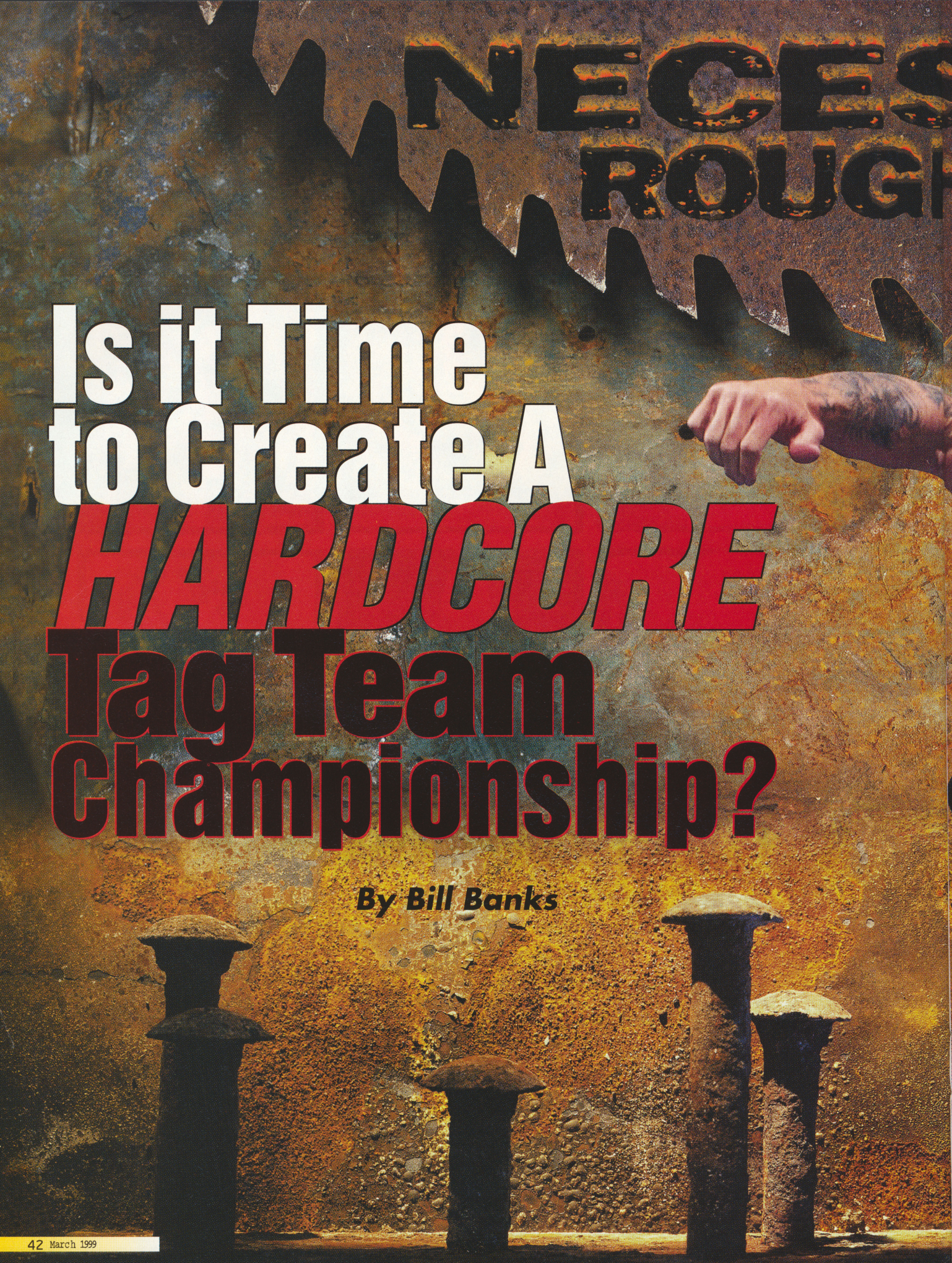

Is it Time to Create A HARDCORE Tag Team Championship?

By Bill Banks

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It looks like something that was run over by a steamroller. Cracked in several places and held together by duct tape, it's nothing more than an old World Wrestling Federation Championship belt. For some people it's hard to imagine how it could be considered a "trophy." What the Hardcore Championship lacks in splendor it makes up for in symbolism. It represents a new era in sports-entertainment—the "no holds barred" style of wrestling that is now popular in the World Wrestling Federation. It takes a special superstar to hold the gold. He must be tough, willing to cast personal safety to the wind and above all else be aggressive.

There's no reason why that definition couldn't fit a number of tag teams as well. In the World Wrestling Federation, there are several tandems who typify traditional tag team wrestling and could surely showcase their talent in an "anything goes" contest. If more superstars are adopting this style, is it time for the Federation to create a Hardcore Tag Team Title? In a division where the only rule is that there are no rules, only the strong could survive!

Randomly going down the talent roster, one tandem fitting into this category is the Acolytes—Bradshaw and Faarooq. Each time they step foot into the ring it's nothing short of a slaughter. In some cases, they have earned disqualifications due to their lack of regard for the rules. What if they were to compete in a division where their destructive tendencies were part of the game? Violence for the sake of violence is what they do best. Who would be able to stop them?

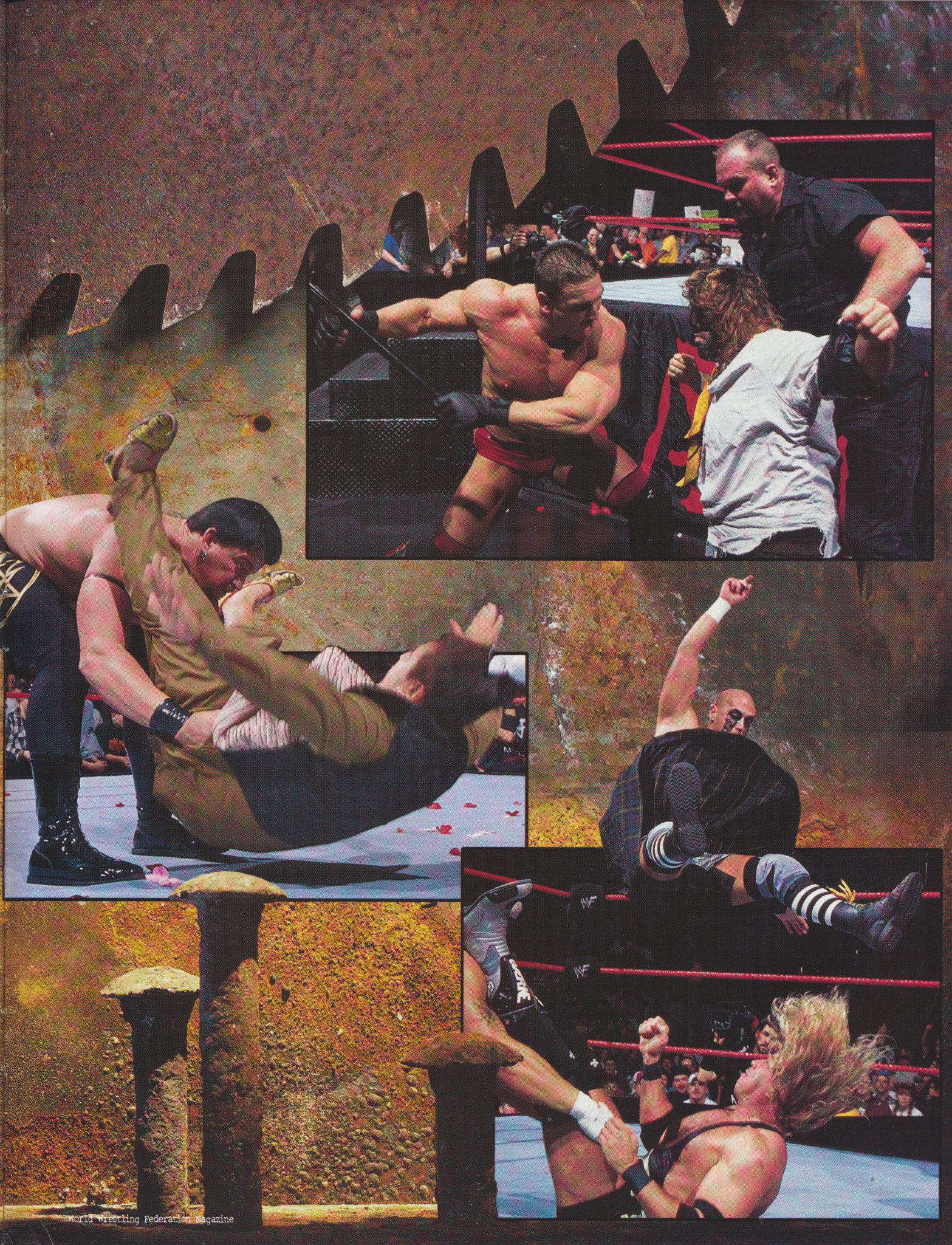
Skull and 8-Ball, perhaps. Their style would make them instant masters of a Hardcore Tag Team Division. Both big and strong, the D.O.A. are far more suited to brawling than technical wrestling. These aggressive bikers take the fight straight to the opposition, and if anything gets in their way it will get mowed down as well. Tables, chairs, chains and even their Titan motorcycles would be fair game. After years of winning bar room brawls, Skull and 8-Ball are more than qualified to use them.

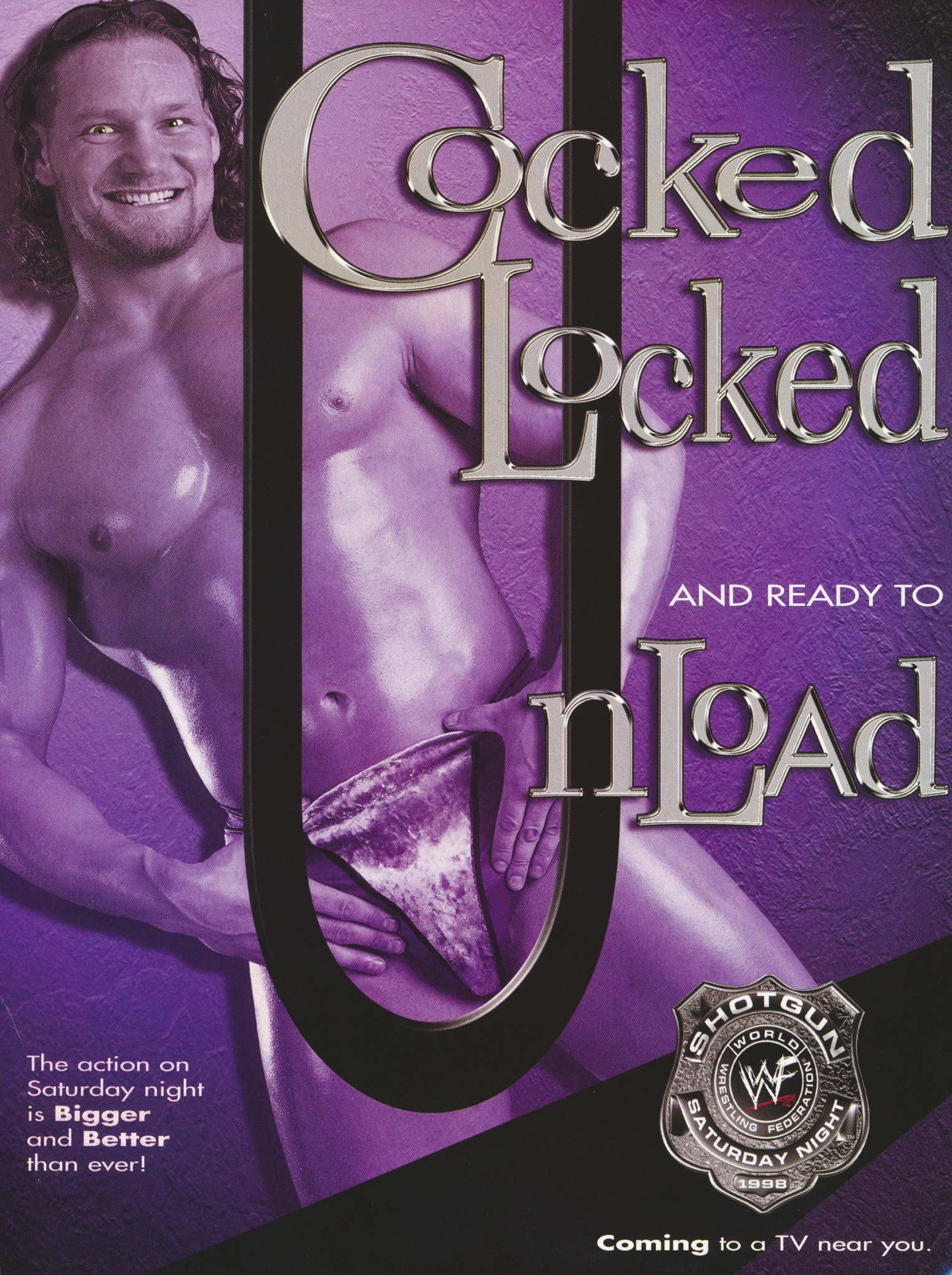
Following in the footsteps of the D.O.A. are the Headbangers, who consider themselves the uncrowned kings of concert mosh pit mayhem. The key to surviving a Marilyn Manson or Pantera concert is to hurt the other guy before he has the chance to annihilate you, and none so far have been able to dethrone Mosh and Thrasher. What if the bedlam of the pit found a home in the ring? Think of the fun the Headbangers would have if they could strap on the steel-toed boots and go ballistic—and earn a title for it!

Further down the roster, any combination of the Brood would excel in such a division. Gangrel, Edge and Christian are superior aerial talents who add a lethal dose of aggressiveness to their style. With their dark Gothic lifestyle the Brood subscribe to an underground lifestyle only a few can understand. They may not be big and tough, but they have proven they can get hard-core when necessary. Combine all that with their demonic appearance and the Brood would bring a dark and frightening edge to such a division.

On the flip side of that Goth coin, any member of the Oddities could be a contender in the Hardcore Tag Team Division. If Kurrgan, Golga or Silva found a mean streak, it would be like the big top from hell! There's no telling how much damage two teed-off giants would cause. Plus, their style would be perfectly suited to the job. These freaks already love destroying foes with chokeslams and powerbombs. What if tables and chairs were added to this equation?

There are so many possibilities with a Hardcore Tag Team Championship. Singles stars could combine forces for new glory. New types of matches could be introduced. And when one team was left standing, they'd be crowned the official kings of a new, aggressive division. Their titles might be cracked and worn... but so would their foes' bones and cartilage! For these teams, it's nothing a little duct tape and barbed wire won't fix... WF

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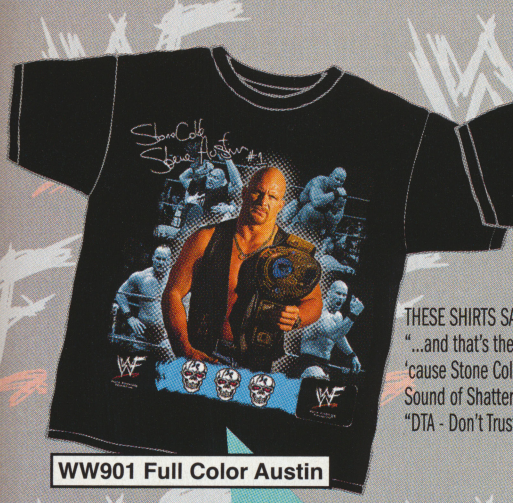

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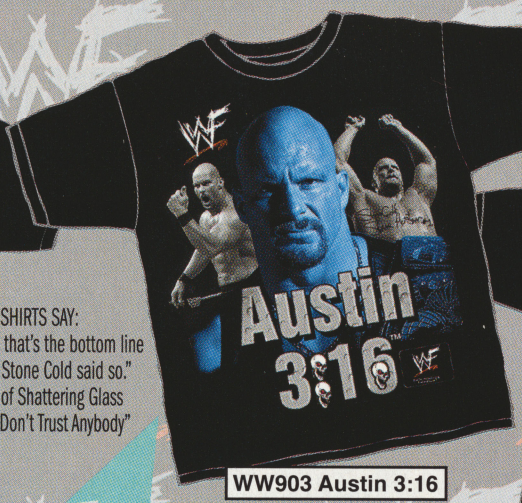

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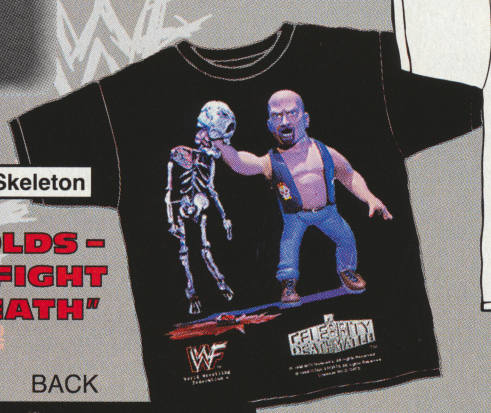

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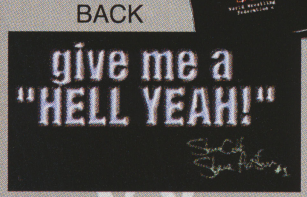

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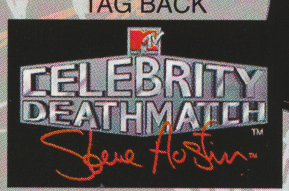

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J208

WWF ROCK BOTTOM™

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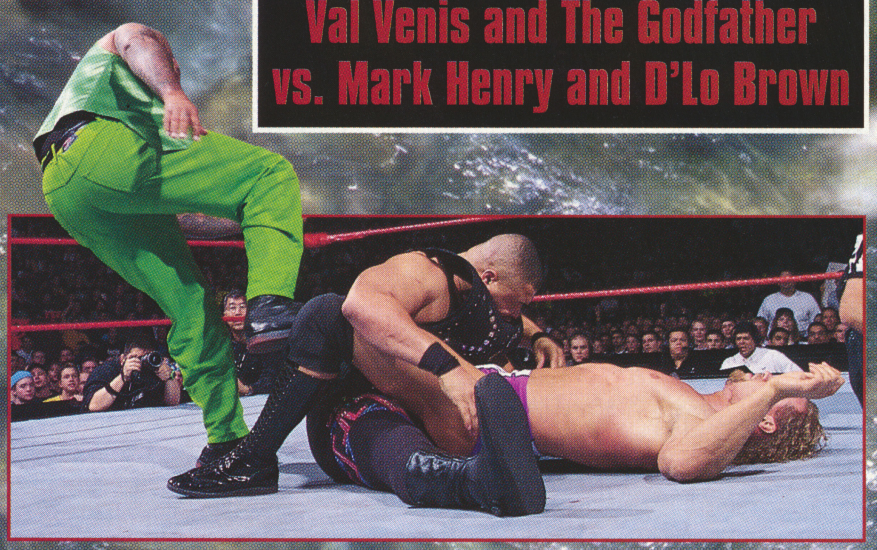
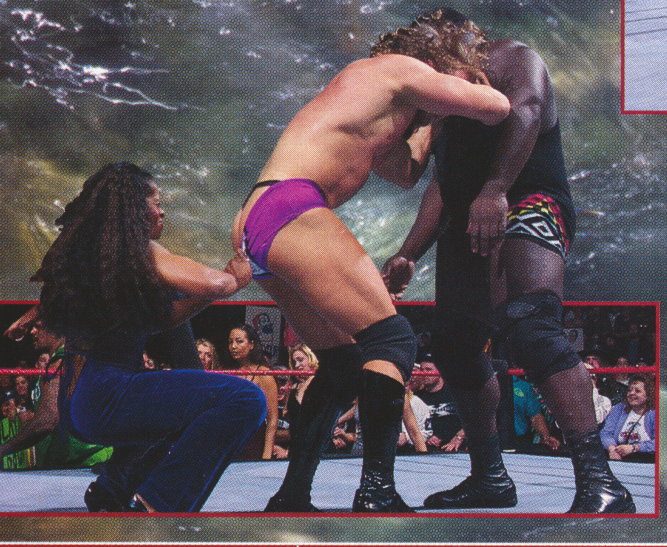
December 13, 1998
Vancouver, British Columbia

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

Val Venis and The Godfather vs. Mark Henry and D'Lo Brown



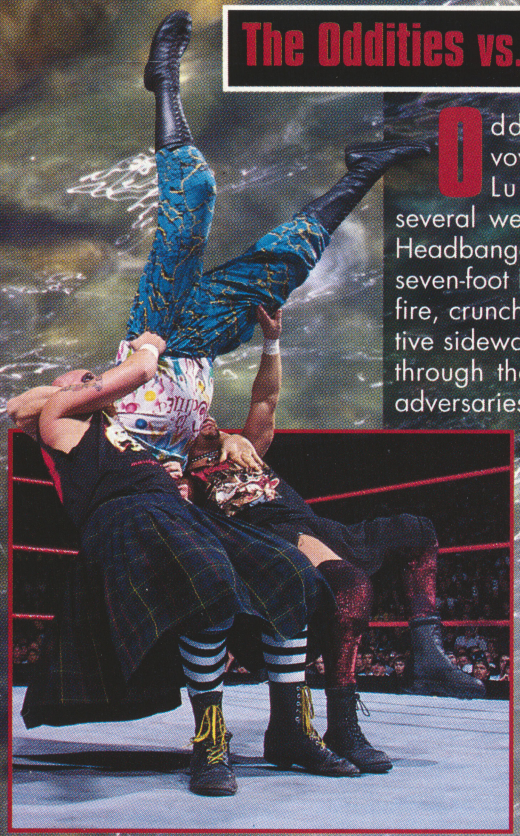


To offset the presence of the Godfather's "hos", Henry and D'Lo entered the ring with their own entourage of Jacqueline and Terri Runnels. With the ladies shouting his praises, Henry used his might to gain the edge in the match, avalanching Venis in the corner.

When D'Lo tried his signature Sky-Hi on Val, the adult film star moved out of harm's way. As Brown crashed into the mat, the Godfather and Venis hoisted him off the canvas and punished him with a double suplex.

Terri and Jacqueline began having words with the "hos" at ringside. While the Godfather left the ring to mediate, Jacqueline slipped between the ropes, yanked down Venis' trunks and set him up for a big splash and the pinfall by Henry.

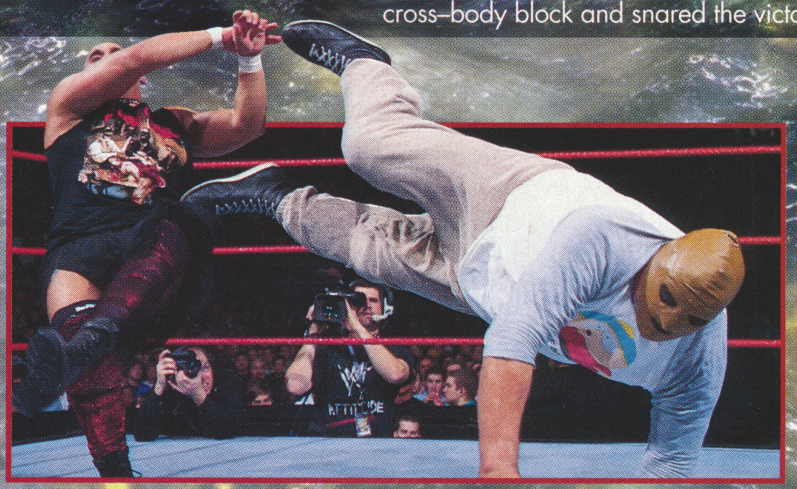
The Oddities vs. The Headbangers



Oddities Kurrgan and Golga vowed to avenge their manager Luna's unexpected haircut several weeks earlier by squashing the Headbangers, Mosh and Thrasher. The seven-foot Kurrgan began the contest on fire, crunching both his foes with respective sidewalk slams. Golga then stepped through the ropes and avalanched his adversaries against the buckles.

The tide changed when Kurrgan missed an off-the-ropes dive onto Thrasher, and swiftly found himself double-suplexed by the treacherous tandem from New Jersey. Golga tagged in and tried to win the match all by himself.

First the 400-pounder pummeled both his rivals and then concentrated on them individually, dropkicking Mosh and powerslamming Thrasher. Golga began running the ropes, not realizing that Mosh had scaled the strands. As Golga bounded across the ring, Mosh met him with a high cross–body block and snared the victory.

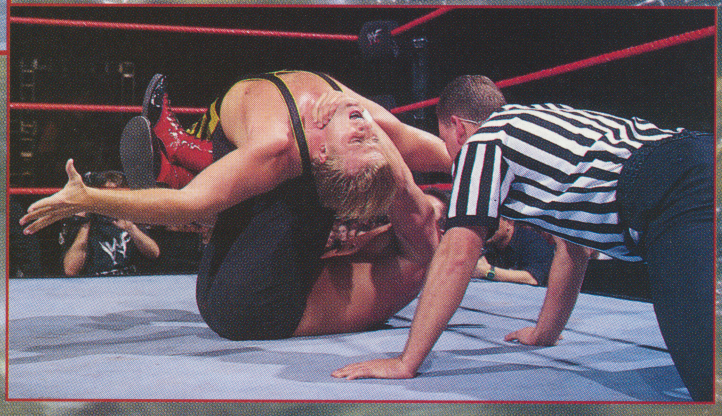


"Lethal Weapon" Steve Blackman vs. Owen Hart

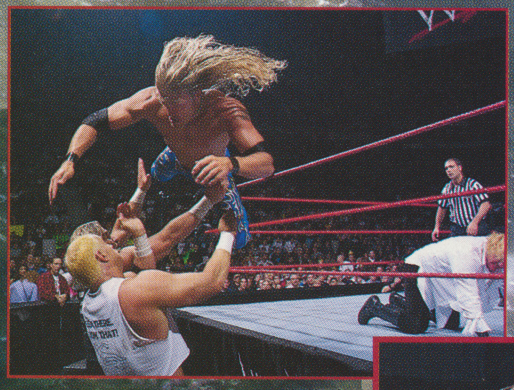
Pumped up by the cheers of his fellow Canadians, Owen Hart hurt his foe with a snap suplex and legdrop before walking into a martial arts kick and being knocked over the top rope by a clothesline.

Lying on the canvas, Blackman nearly gained a submission by draping Owen over his knees and stretching his body backwards. The roar of the crowd inspired Hart to burst free and stun his opponent with a vicious crescent kick. But Blackman was soon back in the match with a standing dropkick, suplex, elbow drop and baseball slide to the chest.

Owen gained a near-fall with another crescent kick. Removing the padding from the top turnbuckle, Hart attempted to put the match away, but the "Lethal Weapon" reversed an Irish whip and the "Nugget" collided with the metal. Blackman also caught Owen in midair as he tried a missile dropkick and clamped on a Sharpshooter. Hart fled to ringside, where Blackman continued the onslaught. Rather than endure an embarrassing beating in his home country, Owen bolted to the locker room, losing via countout.



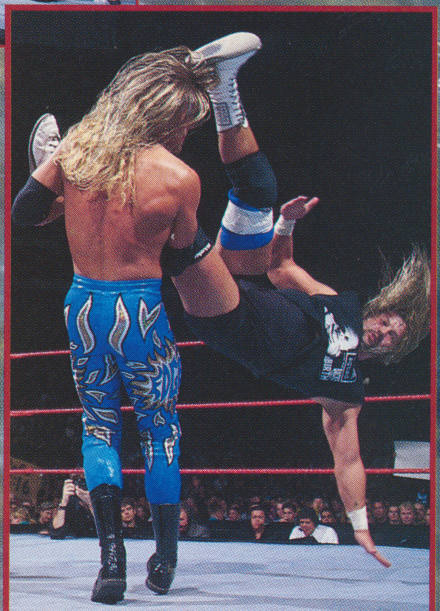
The J.O.B. Squad vs. The Brood



Representing his team of perennial underdogs, J.O.B. Squad member Bob Holly powerslammed and suplexed Edge. But when Holly tried a victory roll, Edge managed to re-position his body and plunge his opponent's face into the canvas.

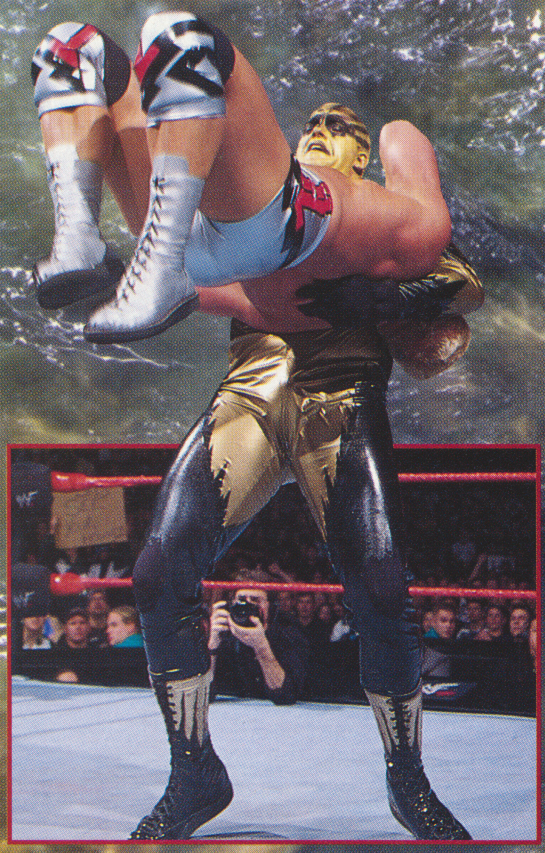
Holly's partner, Al Snow, soon locked up with Gangrel, embarrassing him with a combination of suplexes, before zapping Edge with a crescent kick. The match then degenerated into a six-way brawl, in which J.O.B. Squader Al Snow used his ever-present "Head" to crack opponent Christian.

Christian quickly regained his senses. As J.O.B. Squad member Scorpio unleashed a succession of flying maneuvers on his rivals, Christian stood back to back with his foe, locked arms and drove Scorpio's head into the canvas, racking up a win for the Brood.



WWF ROCK BOTTOM

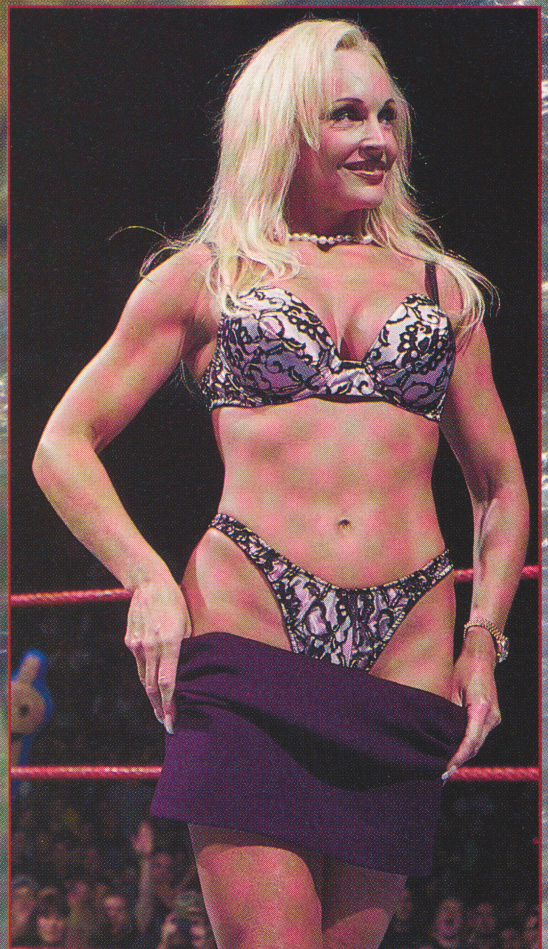
Jeff Jarrett with Debra McMichael vs. Goldust



This battle between two former World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Champions contained a special stipulation. If Goldust lost, he vowed to doff his duds. If Jarrett lost, his stunning manager Debra would do the same.

Defending his lady's honor, Jarrett came close to vanquishing Goldust with a sleeper hold. After Goldust burst out of the maneuver, Debra splintered her charge's guitar over the Flamboyant One's head, allowing Jarrett to drive his foe's face into the canvas and score the pinfall.

World Wrestling Federation Commissioner Shawn Michaels titillated the crowd by disqualifying Jarrett and demanding that Debra "stop your grinnin' and drop your linen." Debra seemed to enjoy performing the strip show, particularly when Michaels stuffed money in her bra. Before she could take it all off, though, Jarrett sent the Blue Blazer to the ring to drape his cape around Debra.

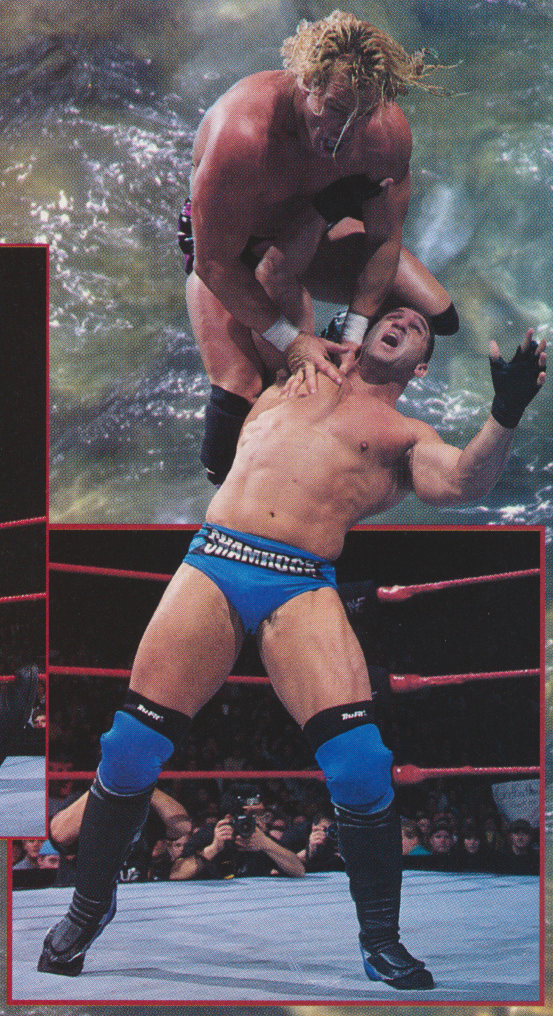


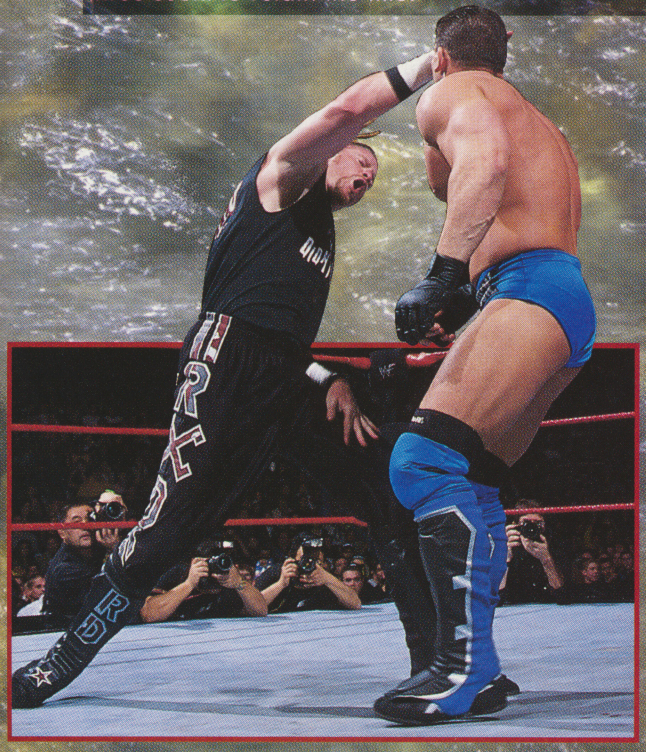
Tag Team Championship Match:
The New Age Outlaws [Champions] vs. Big Boss Man and Ken Shamrock

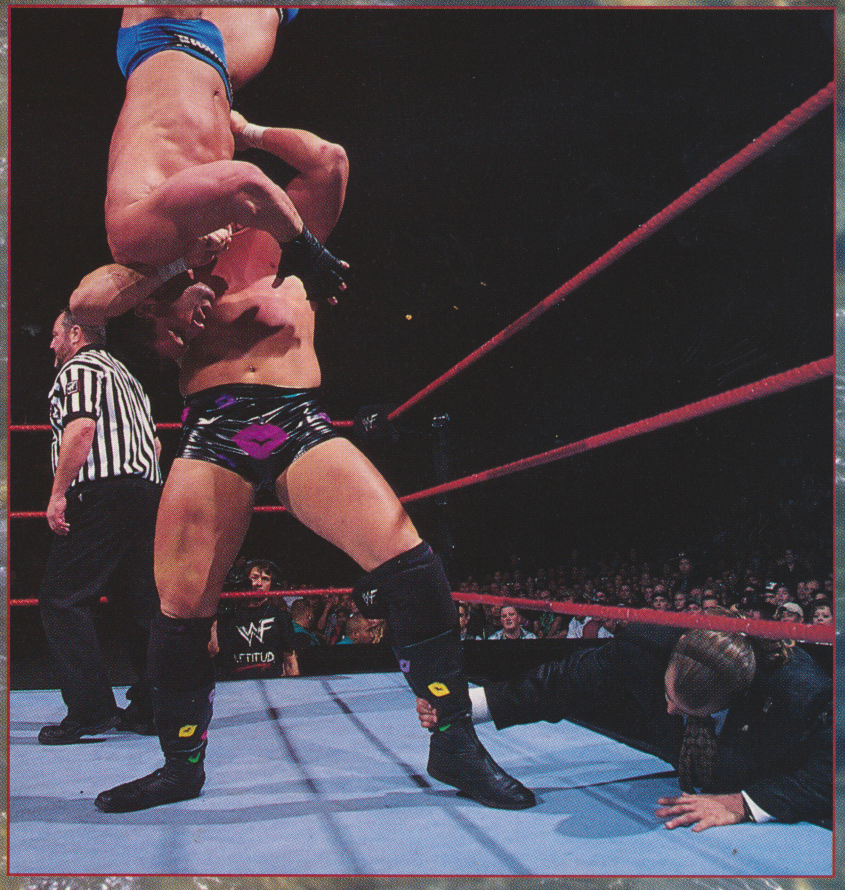
The Road Dog showed fans why he is worthy of championship gold by beating former Ultimate Fighter and current Intercontinental Champion Ken Shamrock at a punchout, standing over him and taunting him with the team's characteristic crotch chop. Not amused the Big Boss Man avalanched Road Dog, draped him over the middle rope and did a running leap onto his back.

For much of the match, Boss Man and Shamrock rotated on the Road Dog. Finally, Badd Ass Billy Gunn blazed into the ring, powerbombing Shamrock and covering him. When the referee attempted to count, Commissioner Michaels pulled the official away, permitting Boss Man to sneak into the ring and clonk Gunn with a nightstick.

Gunn shook off the blow and suplexed Shamrock. Even though Shamrock shifted his weight and came down on top, Gunn managed to roll onto his foe and trap him in a three-count to retain the title.

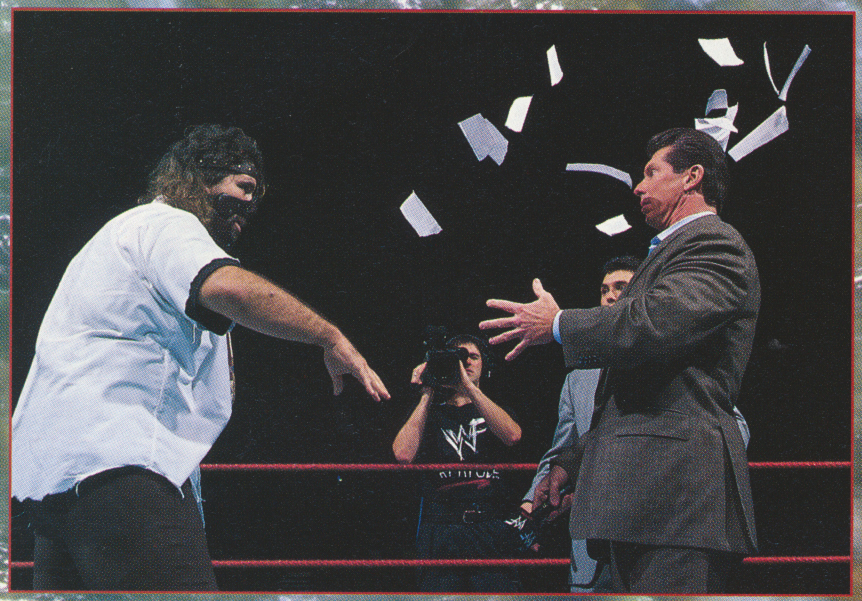


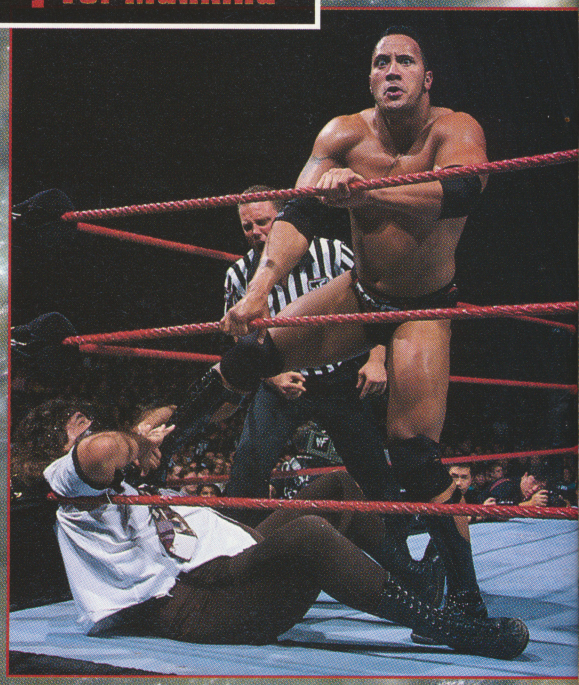




WWF ROCK BOTTOM

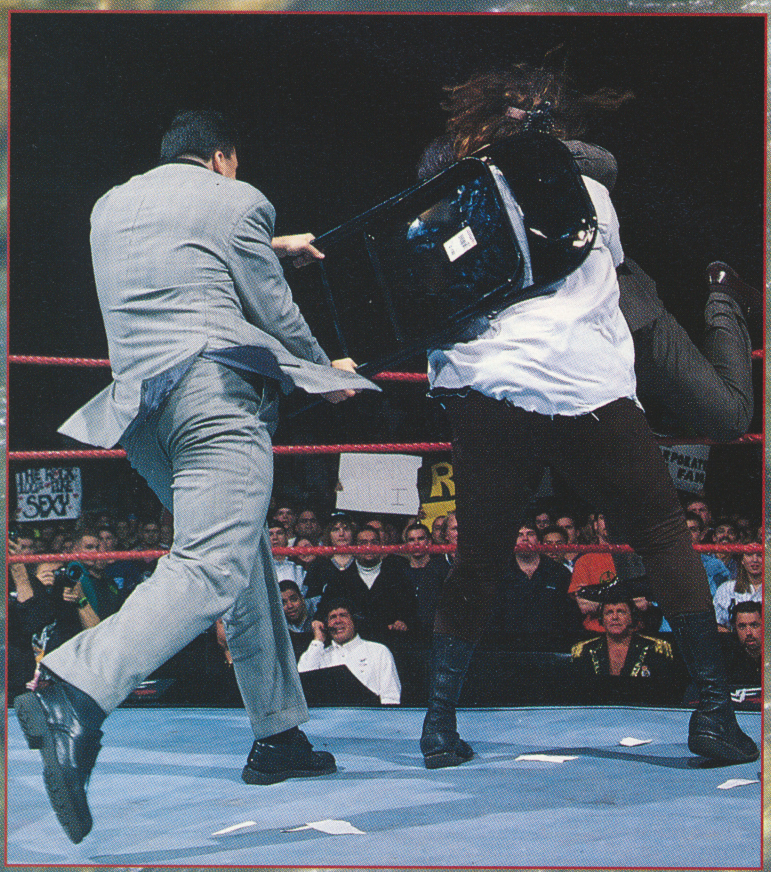
World Wrestling Federation Championship:
The Rock [Champion] vs. Mankind

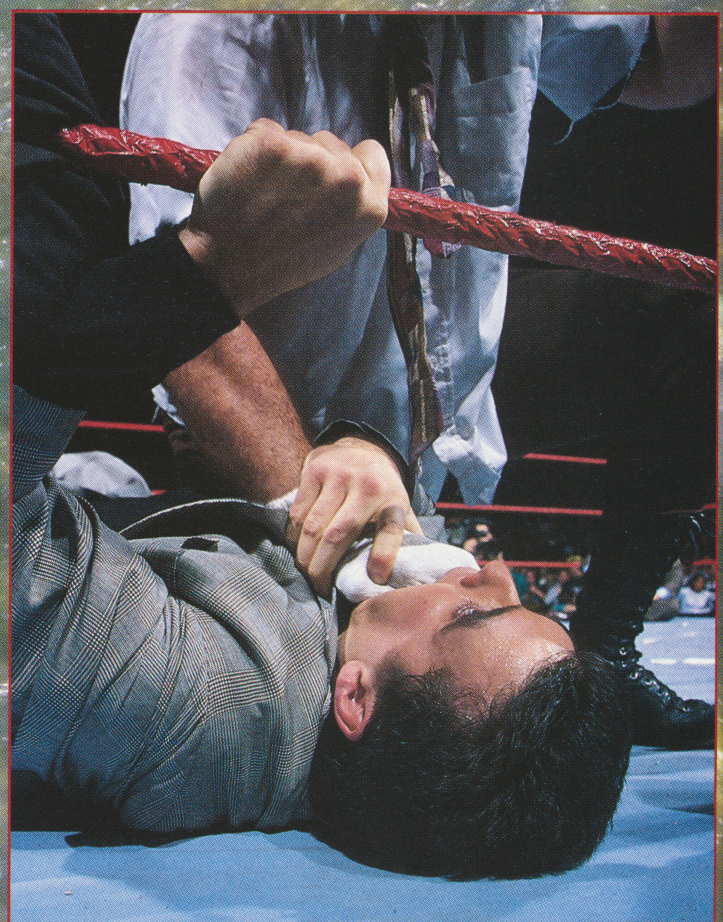


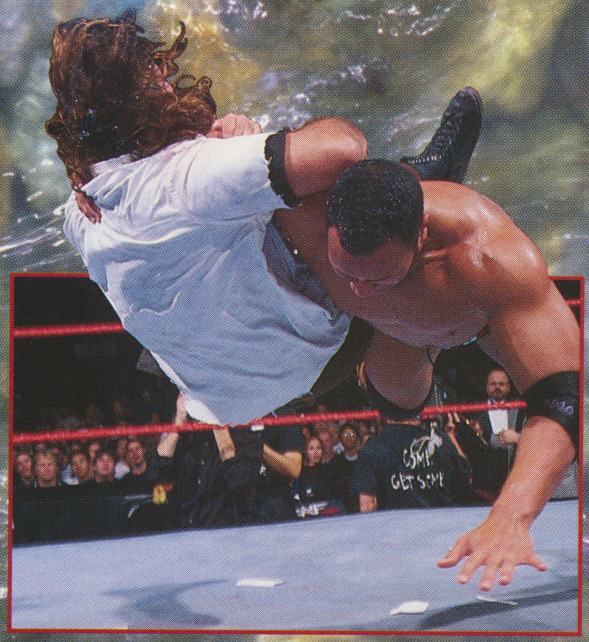


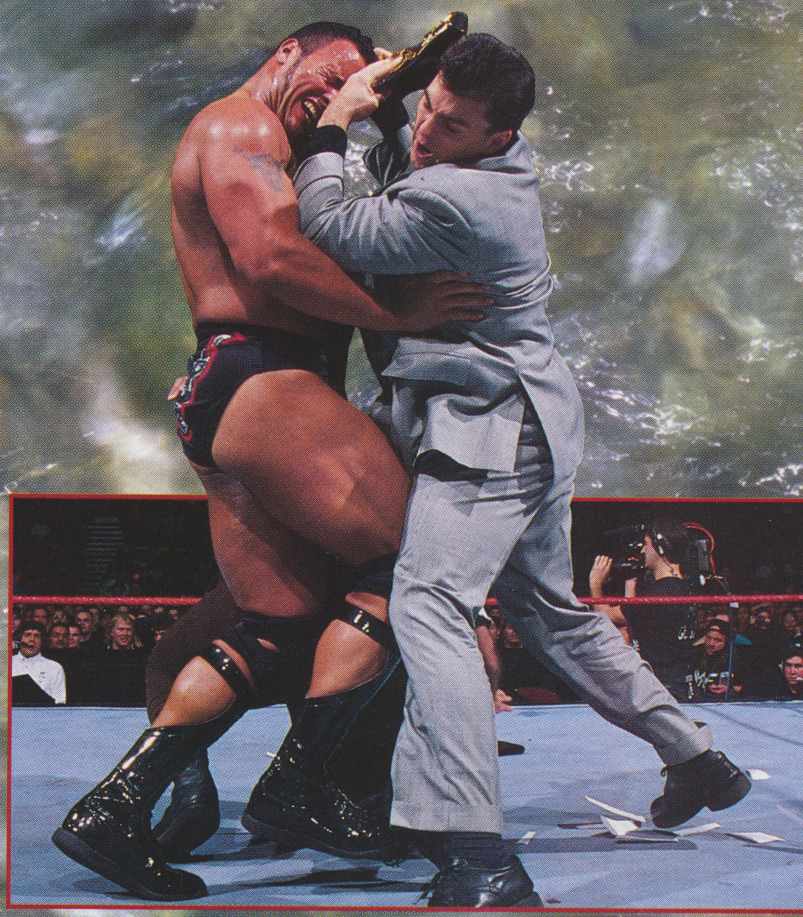
Before the match, Mankind demanded that World Wrestling Federation owner Vince McMahon get down on his knees and proclaim that at the *Survivor Series*: "Deadly Game" championship tournament, the unconventional wrestler never submitted to The Rock's Sharpshooter. When McMahon refused, Mankind ripped up a contract which would have eliminated a clause automatically awarding him the win if The Rock were somehow incapacitated.

Mr. McMahon was not about to take any chances.





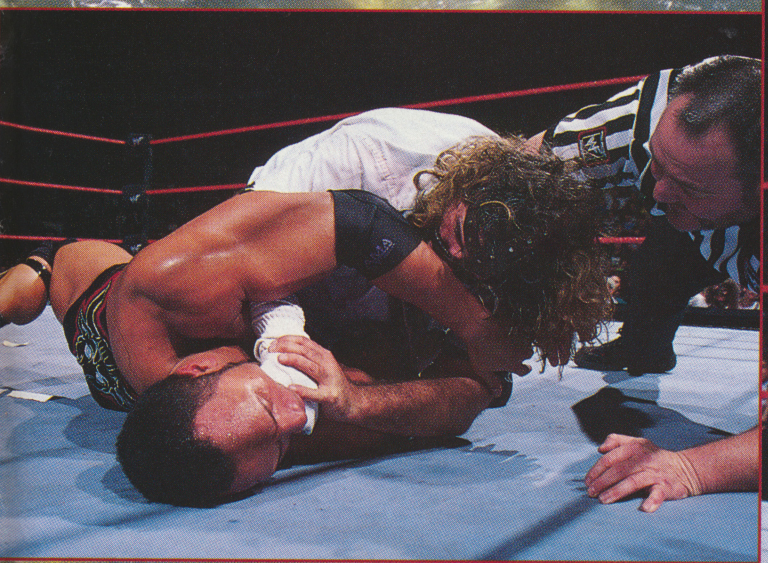


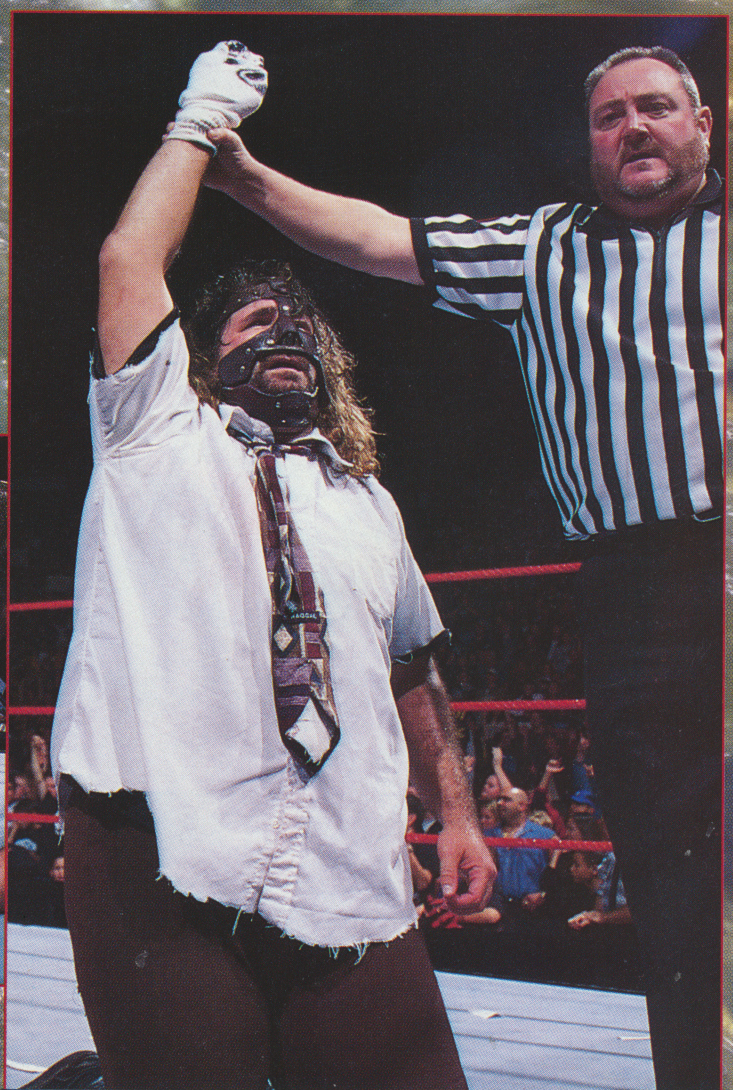


When Mankind knee-dropped the champion's crotch, the owner demanded that the contender be disqualified. Before the order could be carried out, Mankind attacked both the referee and the timekeeper, incapacitating them. As the challenger zoned in on McMahon, The Rock hit his foe from behind with a chair.

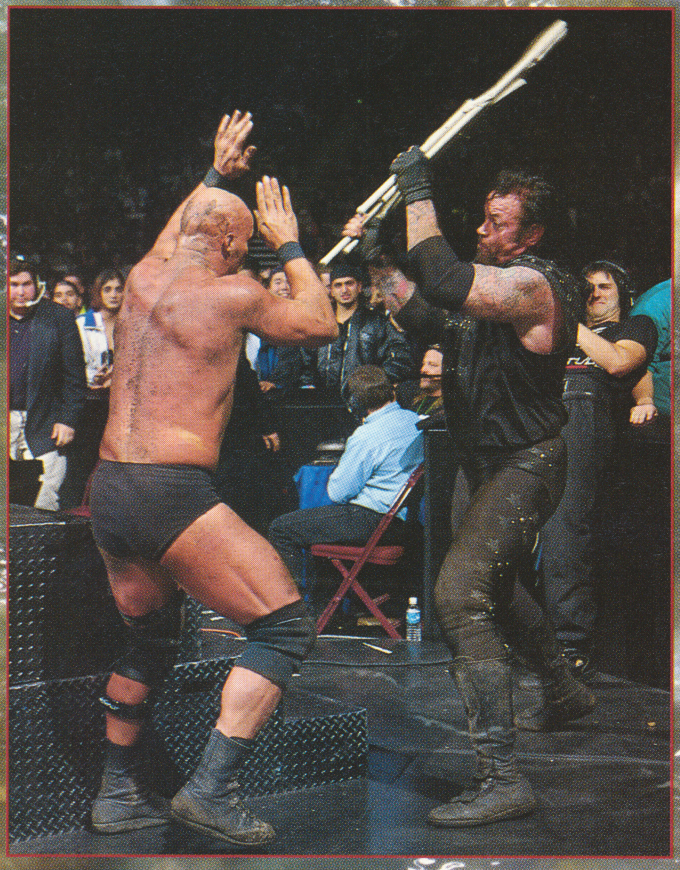
The titleist thought he had the match won after the Rock Bottom. Unfortunately for the champ, the referee was still unconscious. Shane McMahon tried whacking Mankind with the championship belt, but the challenger moved and The Rock took the blow. With The Rock reeling, Mankind slipped on "Mr. Socko", delivered the Mandible Claw and was awarded the victory by a second referee.

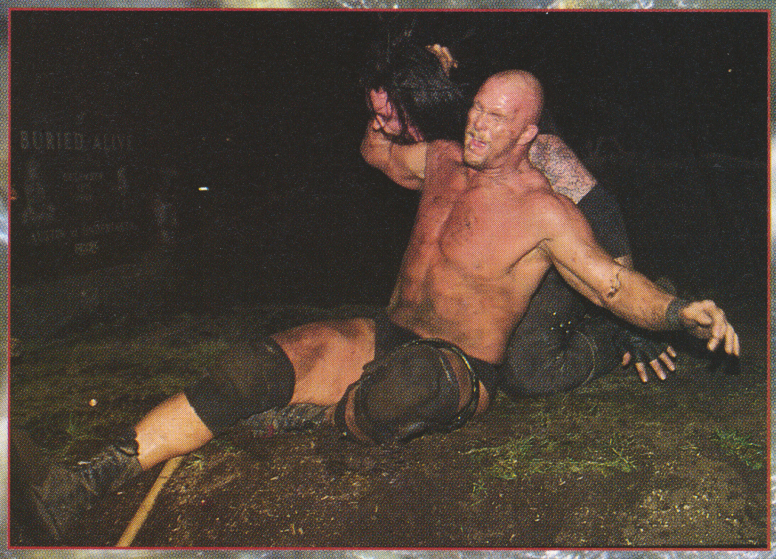
Although McMahon acknowledged that Mankind had won the match, the owner claimed that Federation rules required a title to change hands only via pinfall or submission. Upon learning that the championship had again eluded him, Mankind executed the claw on both McMahons and a number of their associates, until Ken Shamrock and the Boss Man stormed the ring and attacked the victor.





WWF ROCK BOTTOM



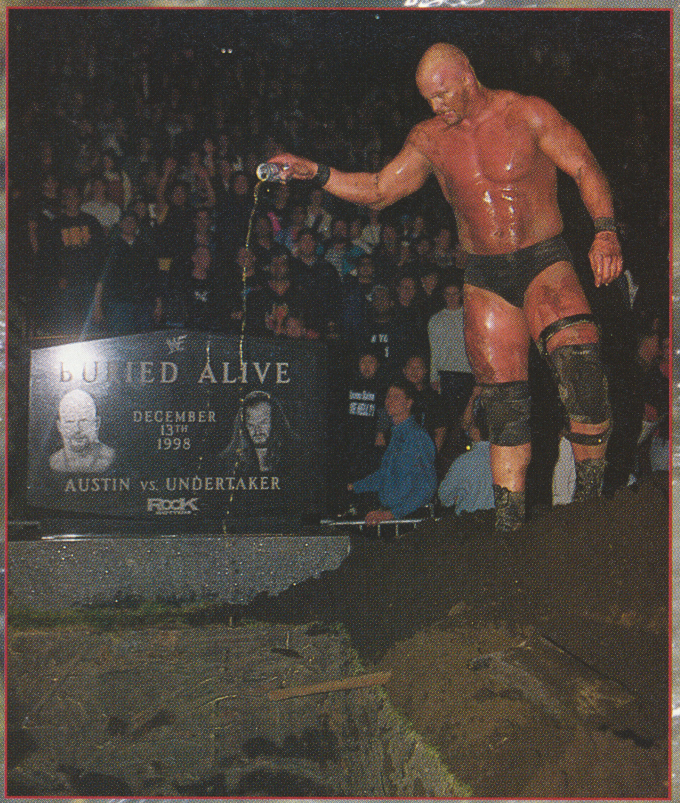


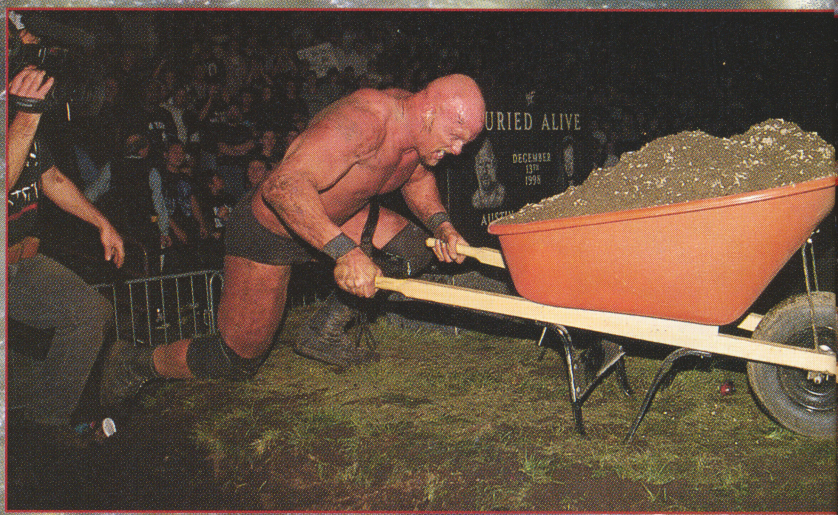
The name of this unique contest said it all—the wrestler who walked away with the win would be the one who buried his opponent in a grave site set up in the arena.

Not surprisingly neither man was in the mood for scientific wrestling. Austin wrapped a cable around his opponent's neck and smashed his head against the guardrail. Undertaker crashed the metal barrier onto his adversary's body. The two turned over the Spanish language announcer's table, and Austin was backdropped to the floor there. Stone Cold again used the guardrail to bulldoze into the Man from the Dark Side.

The Undertaker was the first combatant tossed into the grave, but he quickly pulled in the Rattlesnake. Covered with dirt, the two repaired to ringside for a while where Austin was hit across the skull with a chair and rammed spine-first into the ringpost. He was chucked back into the hollow but soon escaped, hitting the Undertaker with a gas can, a shovel and the Stone Cold Stunner, forcing him into the hole and dumping a wheel barrel of dirt onto him.

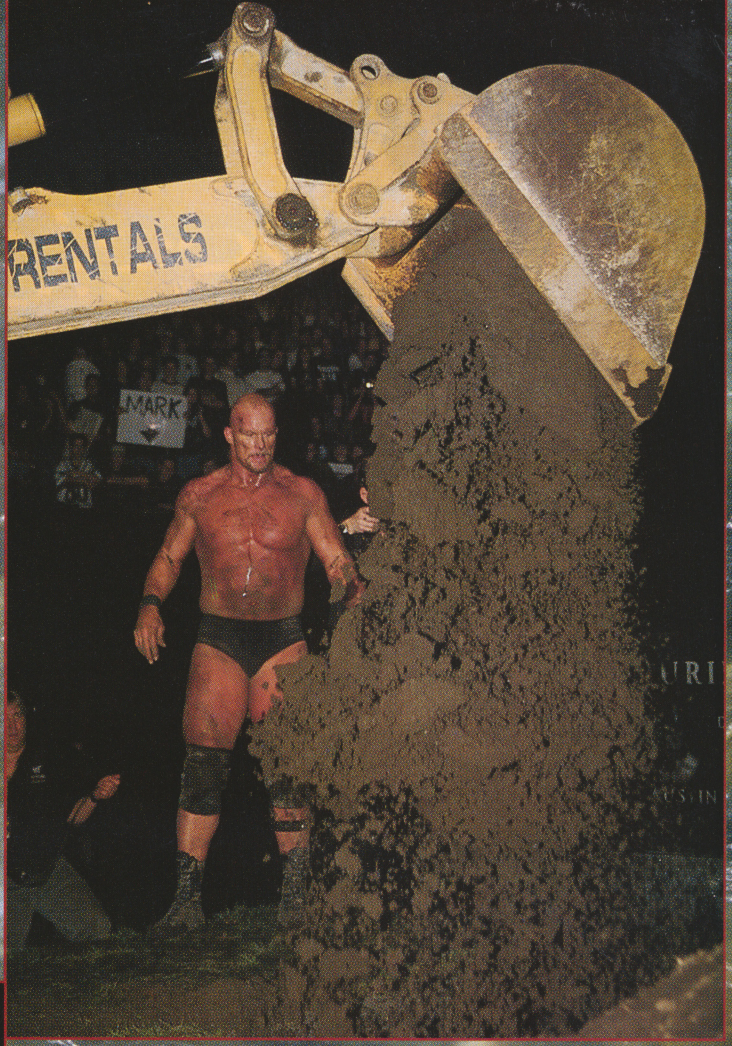
As Austin chased his foe's manager, Paul Bearer, to the back of the arena, Undertaker came up for air. An explosion was heard and Kane emerged from the pit, ripping into his brother and executing the Tombstone piledriver on his sibling. Undertaker tumbled into the grave and Austin reappeared with a backhoe, instructing the driver to pour hundreds of pounds of soil on the Phenom. To add to the humiliation, the Rattlesnake stood on the mound of dirt and drank a "Cold One" to the burial. WF

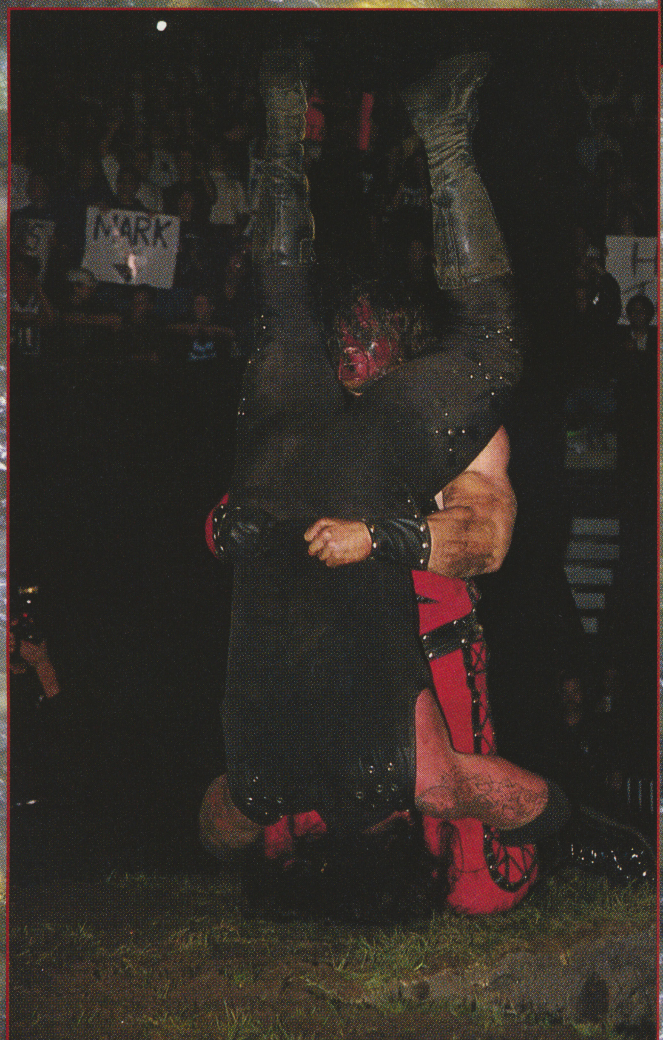


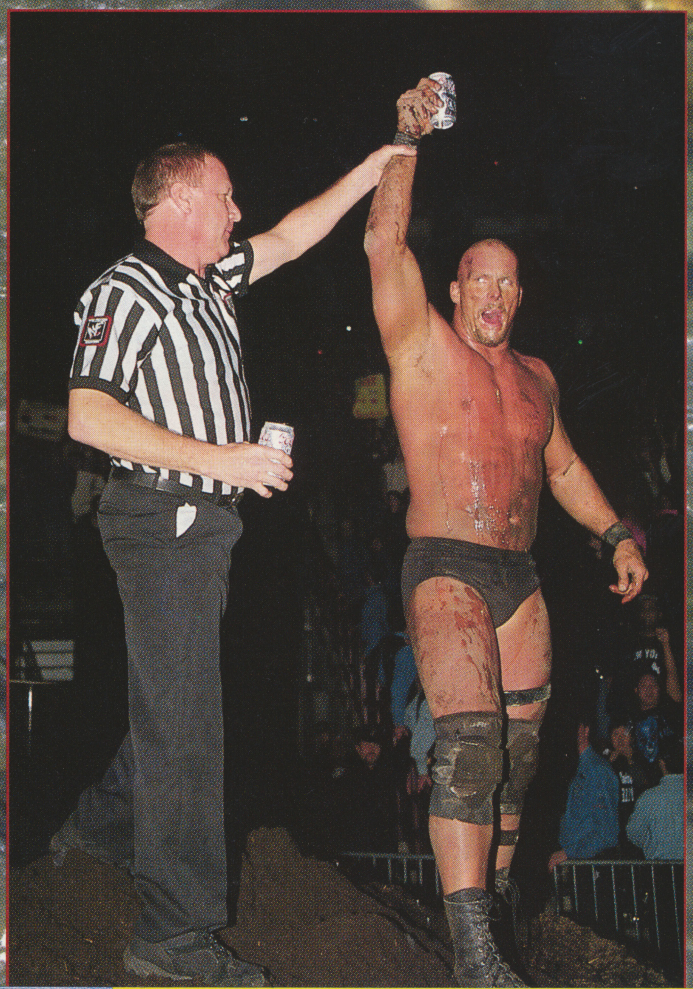


Buried Alive Match:

The Undertaker vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin







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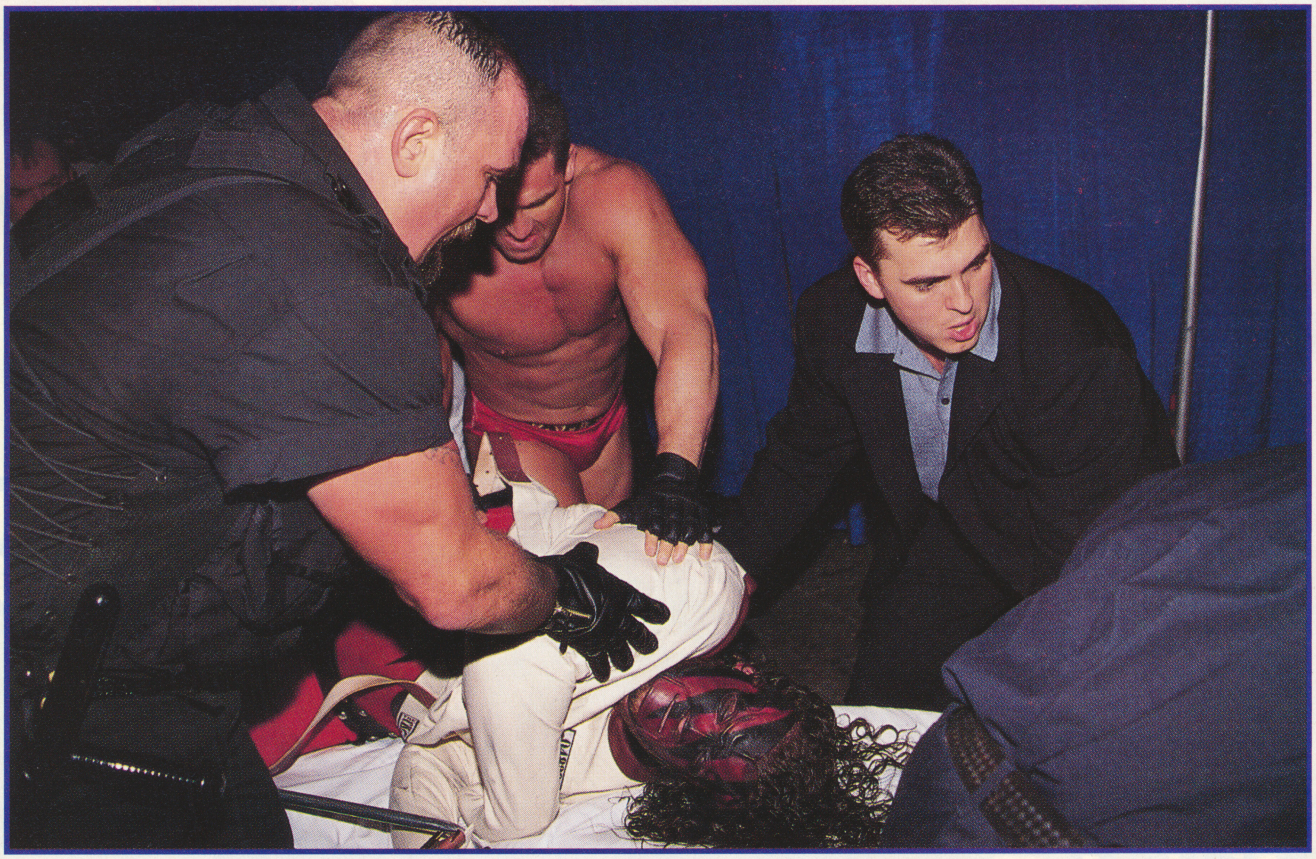
the INFORMER

BARRED FROM the BACK

It's Valentine's Day... and love is in the air! I, the INFORMER, however, am not feeling very much love in the World Wrestling Federation right now! It seems as if PMS may be a PAIN for EVERY MAN on the roster! These PRETTY MEAN SISTERS have gone to great lengths to prove their point and the best is yet to come... perhaps at *WRESTLEMANIA* XV?... THE BROOD looks at the February holiday completely differently. Lately, GANGREL, EDGE and CHRISTIAN have needed extra security because of their FEMALE FANS! They have also been receiving gifts from ONE LADY in particular who is DESPERATE to be with the Gothic group!... I, the INFORMER, overheard a cell phone conversation of DROZ's. Guess what? It seems the former BRONCO still has ties to the NFL and apparently he wants to have either a "SHARPE WIT" or a "ROMO COP" join him at the MARCH CLASSIC! I, the INFORMER, have to wonder if DROZ was a "CANDYMAN" in DENVER as well?... Is D.O.A. D.O.A.?... Don't be surprised if you hear ROAD DOG and X-PAC on their own CDs? Seems as if the Federation is getting into the MUSIC BUSINESS!... "The BLUE MEANIE is like a child! He needs constant attention and we just can't give it to him," said AL SNOW to the rest of the J.O.B. SQUAD during a post-match meal at which one of my informants served as waiter. So, to whom will the MEANIE be pawned off? What's the name of that guy in charge of WWF.COM again?... A longtime favorite in the WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION is considering SURGERY that could end his career... Who's the next ROOKIE to make an impact here in the FEDERATION? The latest discovery of the FUNKIN' DOJO could be the best ever!... As if SABLE didn't have enough on her mind, it appears that a FORMER MANAGER could be contemplating a LAWSUIT alleging BREACH OF CONTRACT. My sources tell me, the INFORMER, that when the WOMEN'S CHAMPION was beginning her career she could have signed a LIFETIME CONTRACT to her one-time manager and apparently now HE'S LOOKIN' TO GET PAID!!!... The unveiling of the greatest CON JOB in FEDERATION HISTORY could happen any day now! Can you say, "WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING"? Or better yet, "Not really a MAN, but a WOMAN!" Don't say I, the INFORMER, didn't warn ya!... Until next time... this has been... the INFORMER...



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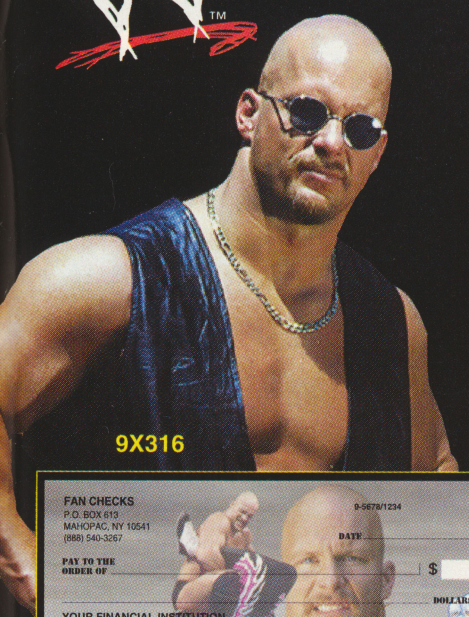

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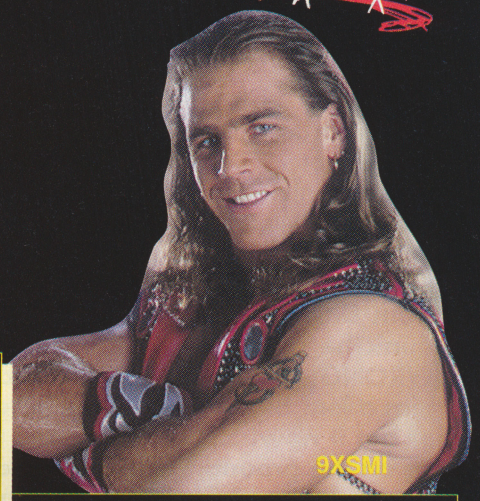

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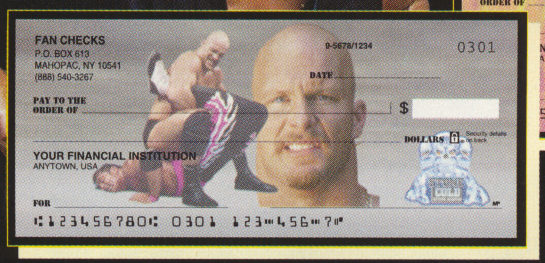

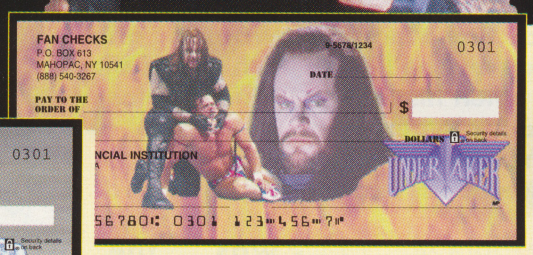

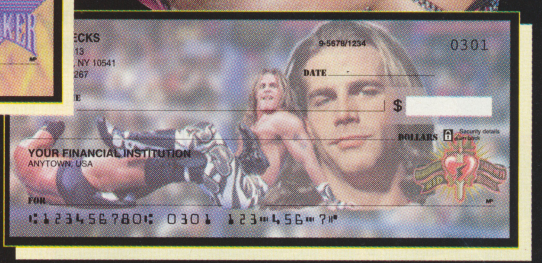

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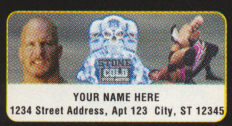

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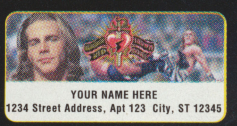

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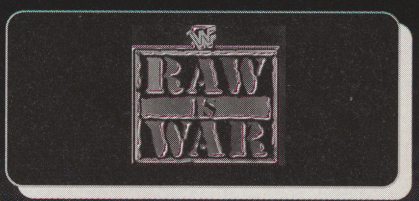

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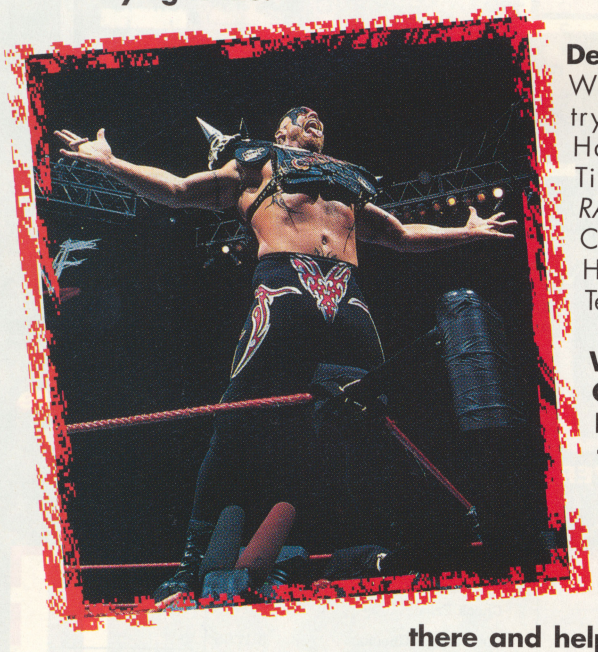
PIN 'EM DOWN

Dear Mankind,
Why do you keep trusting Vince McMahon?
Joanne Delano
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

I won't any more, Joanne! I divorced myself from Dad and the rest of that family. I used to think he cared about me, BUT I GUESS I WAS WRONG! I trusted him so much that I bought him a leaf blower for Father's Day, but he'll never get it now! So, next autumn when his leaves lie on the ground, resulting in poor oxygenation of the soil and his lawn becomes the laughing stock of Greenwich, I hope Vince doesn't come crying to me!

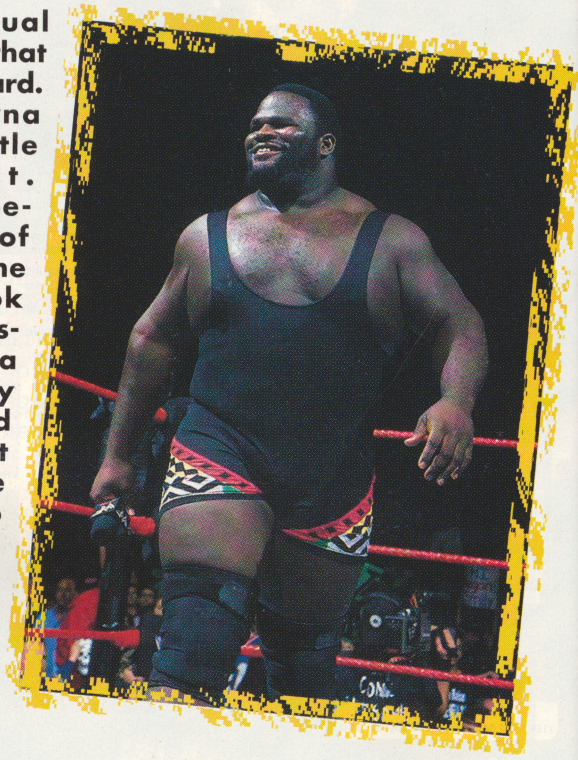


Dear Droz,
Why did you try and push Hawk off the Titantron on *RAW*?
Cheryl Clever
Houston, Texas

WELLLLLL, Cheryl, I wasn't trying to push Hawk off anything! I tried to climb up there and help the poor guy out, but in his "emotional state" he must have forgotten where the edge was. Can't say I'd want to fall 40 feet like he did, but "OH, WHAT A RUSH" it must have been on the way down!

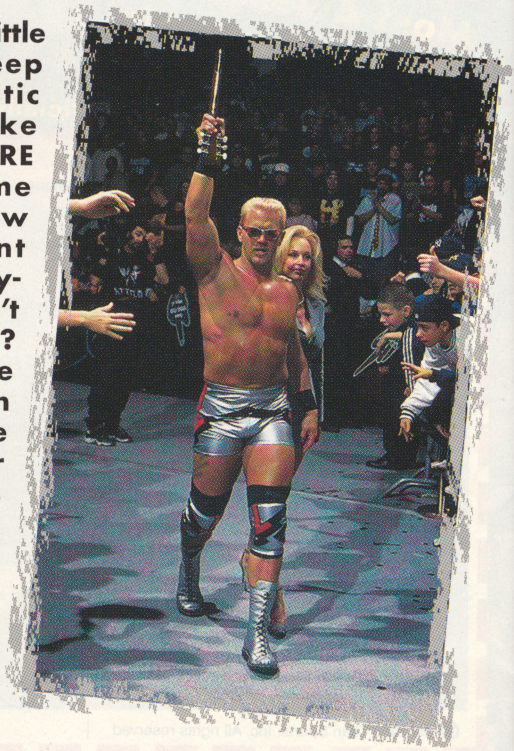
Dear Mark Henry,
Why didn't you just ask Chyna for a date to begin with instead of suing her?
Tiffany Gleeson
Hartford, Connecticut

Well, Tiffany, when you're a lover like myself, you have plenty of experience in knowin' the way to a woman's heart. First, you have to give her a reason to remember you, and with my pure Sexual Chocolate that ain't too hard. But Chyna was a little different. She's a special kind of woman, one who took time to blossom into a rose. I may have sued her, but it was the only way to shine some light on that seed of love within her!



Dear Jeff Jarrett,
Is there anything that doesn't p*ss you off?
Ed Berger
Miami, Florida

Listen up, you little jerk. You keep askin' sarcastic questions like that and YOU'RE gonna p*ss me off—and I know you don't want that. Is there anything that doesn't p*ss me off? Yeah, sure there is! It's when idiotic fans like you shut your stinkin' mouths and leave me alone. There's one other thing that doesn't p*ss me off, and that's Debra McMichael!



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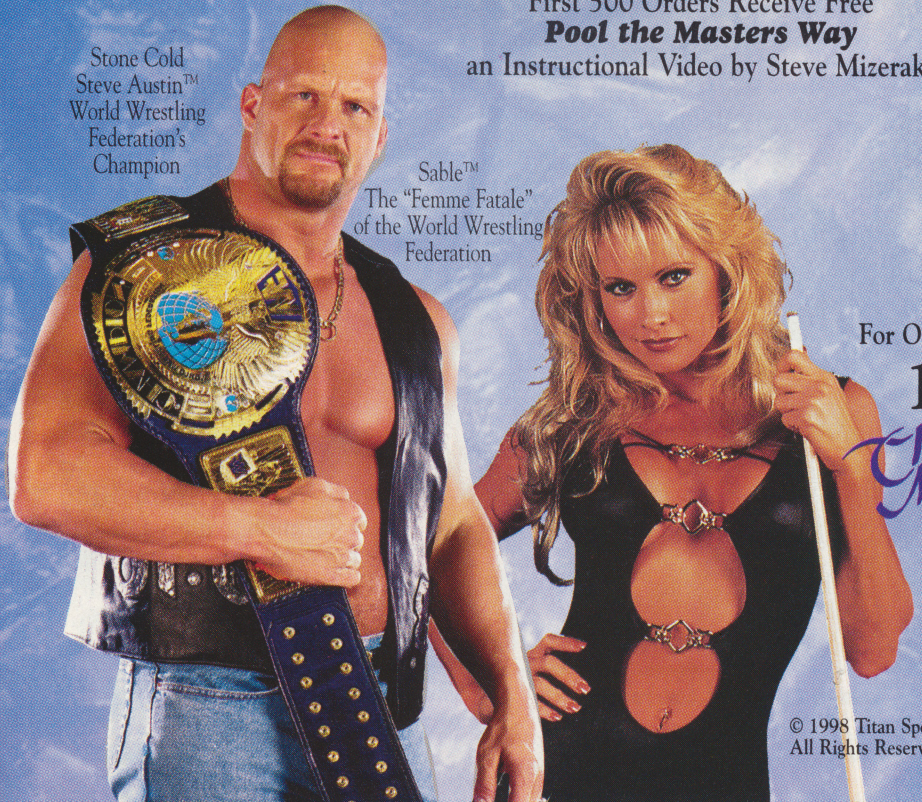

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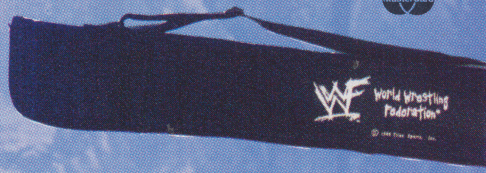

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PRIVATE EYE

Stone Cold Rocks The Billboard Music Awards!

By Lucas

For the past nine years, the Billboard Music Awards have honored the top-selling albums of the preceding year, while attracting a barrage of Hollywood's "A List." This year, that list included Stone Cold Steve Austin.

I was fortunate enough to accompany Stone Cold throughout the ceremony and I was able to see his experience firsthand. Competing overseas the night before at "Capital Carnage", Austin arrived in Las Vegas, Nevada, only two hours before the show was set to begin!

After a brief run through with the stage manager, the Rattle-snake headed to his room for a quick shower and a change of clothes. He returned soon after, ready to enjoy the festivities! Dressed in denim shorts, a "Blood From a Stone" T-shirt and his trademark camouflage jacket, Stone Cold walked down the red carpet with the likes of Shania Twain, Garth Brooks, Jerry Springer and a host of other celebs.

Brimming with excitement, Austin spoke with reporters from *Entertainment Tonight, Access Hollywood* and *E! Entertainment Television* about his appearance at one of the entertainment industry's premier events.

Before he presented the award for "Country Artist of the Year", Stone Cold was able to sit in the audience and enjoy the show. About an hour after the broadcast began, it was time for the Rattlesnake to bite into the Billboards!

Following a performance by Mariah Carey, Austin made it to the stage—but it wasn't a typical path! Stone Cold had to force his way through "wanna be" tough guy, comedian and co-host Andy Dick who thought for a minute he might be a physical match for the tough Texan.

Just as he does each Monday night on *Raw*, Stone Cold captivated the audience, delivering lines that only "the toughest S.O.B. in sports-entertainment" can! The reaction Austin received from the sold-out MGM Grand audience much resembled the roar of a packed Madison Square Garden or Kiel Center during a World Wrestling Federation event!

After presenting the award to legendary Garth Brooks, Stone Cold was escorted backstage by the

D.T.A., Garth! Except for Stone Cold, of course!

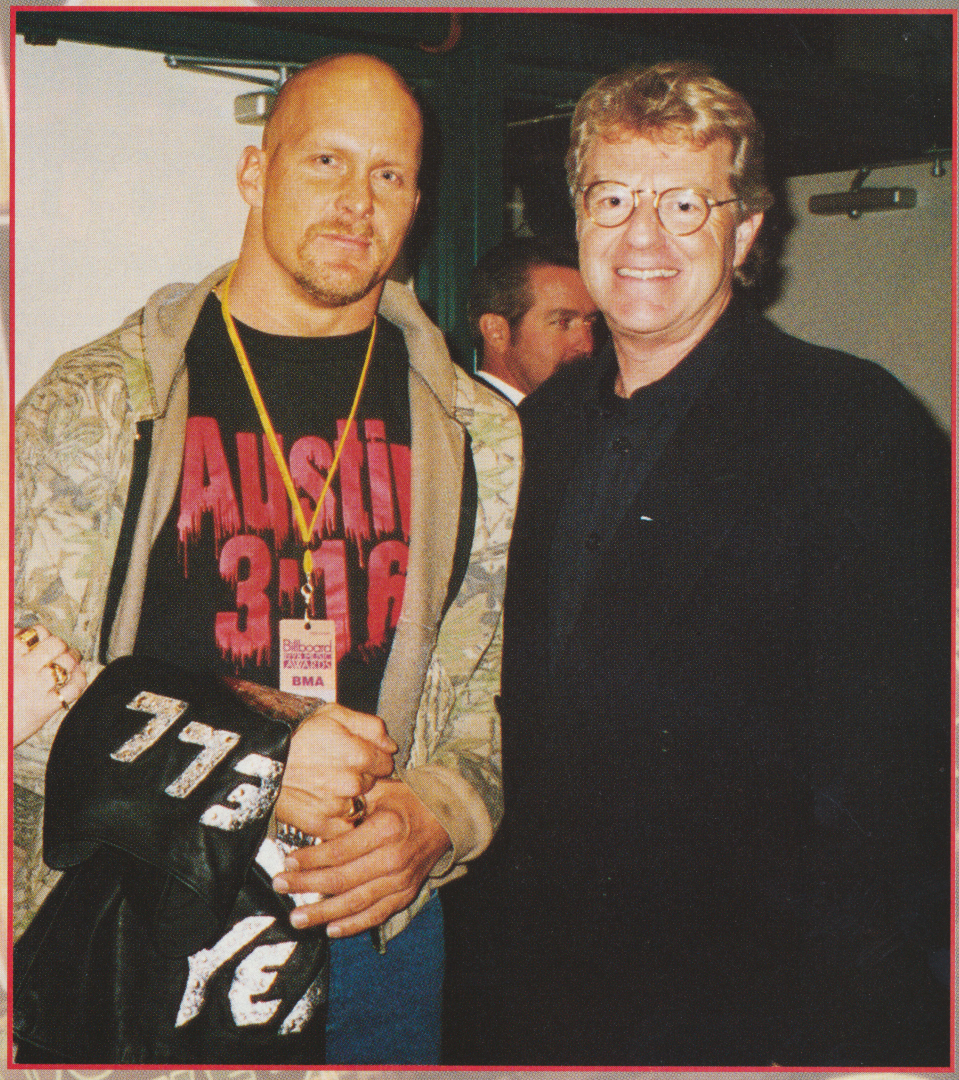
Federation's Director of Media Relations, Jay Andronaco, for the post-show interviews. Speaking with media such as VH1, Fox and Extra, the Rattlesnake let everyone know how thrilled he was to appear at the highly regarded event and to be fortunate enough to present an award to Garth Brooks—an entertainer Stone Cold greatly respects.

When the work was over, it was time to play! The Hard Rock Hotel hosted the post-festivity bash and stars such as Isiah Thomas, the Backstreet Boys and Kathy Griffin were all on hand to celebrate. No one enjoyed themselves more than Stone Cold Steve Austin. The two-time Federation Champion genuinely had a fantastic time at the party as he threw back a couple of his favorite beverages, signed a ton of autographs and posed for a number of photographs with some of his fans.

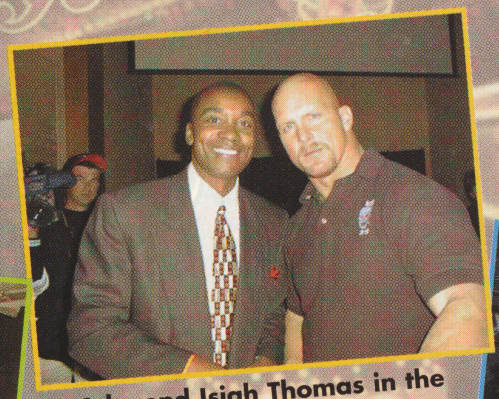
However, all good things must end and the Billboard Music Awards was no exception. Stone Cold made no secret that he had an unforgettable time as a celebrity presenter, but he did have just one regret.

"I didn't get to meet Stevie Wonder!" the superstar lamented. "That guy's a legend."

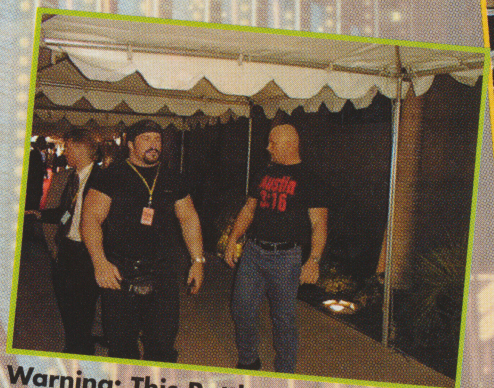
With his popularity continuing to soar every day, there will undoubtedly be more opportunities in Steve Austin's future to shake hands with the Motown rocker.



The King of Trash and the King of Trash Talkin'.



NBA legend Isiah Thomas in the house!



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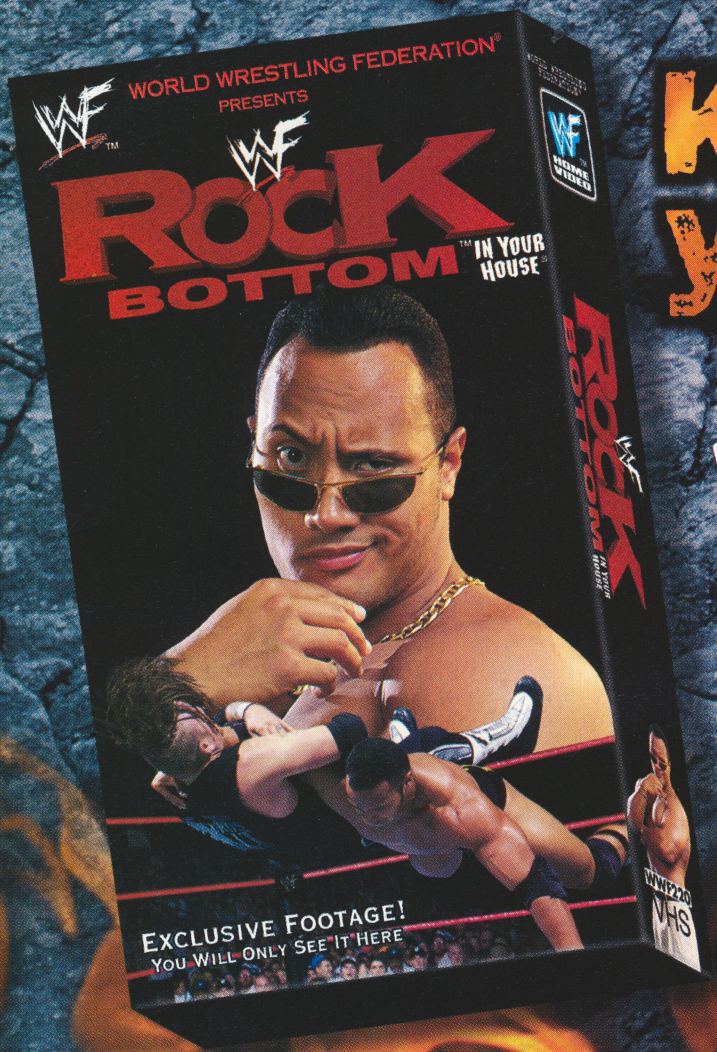

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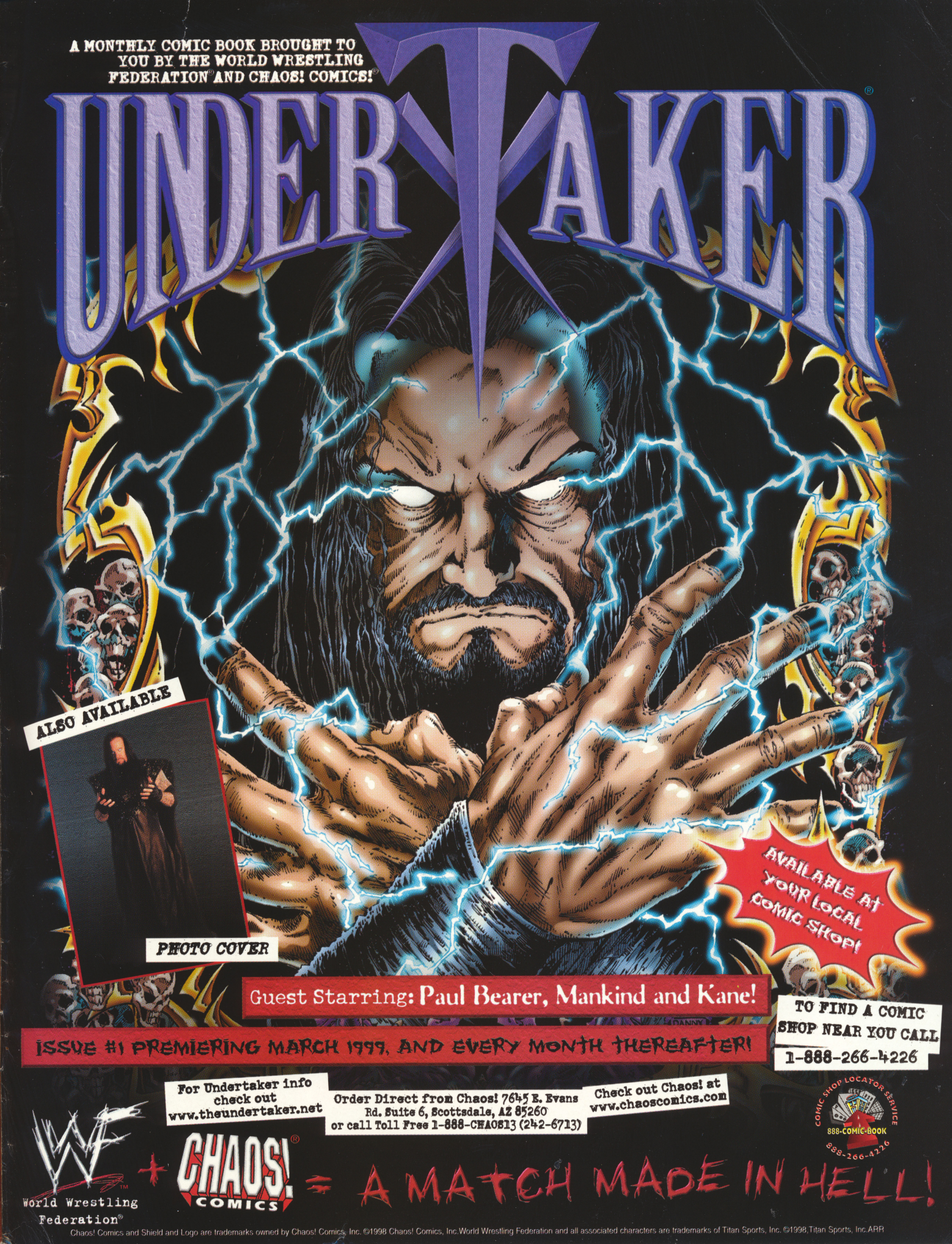

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Oh my! the "REFRESHER" has just entered the ring! Look how he COOOOLS the crowd!!!

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